Syrian and Israel forces in further clash.

Egypt And Yemen.

Saudi Arabian town bombed by Egypt.

Arab League cuts off aid to Jordan Army.

Egypt in The Times Newspaper 1967

Part 1 (January 1, Jun 30, 1967)

Egypt Closes Gulf Of Aqaba To Israel Ships.

Nasser threat on Suez Canal.

Israel Claims Sinai Gains.

Israel Claims Sinai Gains.

President Nasser Offers To Resign.

YEMEN PURGE AIDS THE ROYALISTS

REPUBLICANS DEFECT TO ANTI-EGYPTIANS

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—ADEN, JAN. 1

An extensive purge in Yemen republican ranks, carried out by President Sallal after ousting General Al-Amri, his Prime Minister, last September, has apparently made the deposed Imam Muhammad Al Badr more popular, and his cause, aimed at expelling the Egyptians from Yemen, more convincing.

It has also led to defections to the royalist ranks. Among the latest republican defectors is Abdullah Ali Al Abyadh, a senior Yemen republican official.

He declared at a press conference here yesterday that the only way for Yemenis to liberate their country from the Egyptians was now to unite under "the banner of the royalist Yemenis".

Since the revolution of September, 1962, Egyptian-backed republicans and Saudi-supported royalists have been at war, and various attempts by Kuwait, Lebanon and Sudan at mediation between President Nasser of the United Arab Republic and King Faisal of Saudi Arabia to solve the Yemen crisis have been fruitless.

Al Abyadh, who is 30, said that he had defected because of what he called oppression by the Egyptians and because there was an urgent need to liberate Yemen from the Egyptians. He had decided to go over to the royalists after the indiscriminate purge by President Sallal. He added that 10 more republicans, including five Army officers, had defected.

2,000 gaoled

Abyadh said that more than 2,000 persons had been gaoled after the purge. An orphanage and former premises of the Ministry of the Interior in Sana had been converted into detention centres. He said that he had seen signs of torture on the bodies of seven Yemen leaders, including a former Minister, when they were publicly executed in Sana last October.

Even after these executions royalist armed attacks on President Sallal's residence and on the Egyptian military command in Sana had continued. Four days ago some 15 royalists raided an Egyptian military post only three miles east of Sana and about a week ago Egyptian tanks and aircraft attacked Hamdan, north of Sana.

Republican and Egyptian forces had no control of the northern and eastern territories 12 miles from Sana, he said, and Royalists frequently launched night attacks from the mountains on Egyptians guarding the western road from Sana to Hodeidah.

Ibrahim Al-Wazir, a leading member of the dissident Yemen republican Popular Forces Union, told a press conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, yesterday, that the Yemen question had become "a case of Yemenis and Egyptians". He added that all were now asking for implementation of the Taif agreement of August 12, 1965, which provided for the formation of a Yemen Government that was neither republican nor royalist.

Mr. Brown's contacts on Egypt

CAIRO, Jan. 1.—The United Arab Republic is not thinking of resuming diplomatic relations with Britain, severed a year ago over Rhodesia, the newspaper *Al Ahram* said yesterday. After referring to recent contacts between President Nasser and Mr. George Brown, Britain's Foreign Secretary, it added that these exchanges were, and still are, within the framework of a "personal friendship" between the two men that began when Mr. Brown did not hold any official post in Britain.

Al Ahram said that the Canadian Ambassador in Cairo had conveyed the latest message from Mr. Brown to President Nasser a few days ago. President Nasser is expected to reply this week.

According to the newspaper, the contacts started when Mr. Brown took over as Foreign Secretary and flew to New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly, where he told the U.A.R. delegation of his wish to remind President Nasser of their "old friendship", and that he was once a guest at a special dinner in the President's home while the Labour Party was in opposition.

The second step came when Mr. Brown and Field Marshal Abdel Hakim Amer, the U.A.R. First Vice-President, met when both were on an official visit to the Soviet Union last November.

The newspaper then explained that the U.A.R. was a partner with other countries in the Organization of African Unity in implementing the decision to break relations with Britain, and could not on its own decide on a resumption so long as the Rhodesian issue remained unsettled.—*Reuter.*

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes:—A Foreign Office spokesman confirmed yesterday that contacts between the British and United Arab Republic Governments were continuing. Neither side appears to think that an early resumption of diplomatic relations is likely. It is evident, however, that Britain would consider sympathetically any approach from the U.A.R.—which took the decision for the severance—if a desire to reestablish relations was made clear without reservations.

Cairo radio attacks on British policy and presence in the Middle East and the alleged torture of arrested suspects in Aden, remain stumbling blocks; indeed, should diplomatic relations be resumed, they are not necessarily expected to be easy.

CLASH ON ISRAEL BORDER

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

TEL AVIV, JAN. 1

Israel and Syrian forces clashed this morning in the demilitarized zone south east of Lake Tiberias in a dispute over cultivation rights. Reports reaching the United Nations truce supervision headquarters in Jerusalem said that Syrian border positions fired on three Israel tractors sowing land north east of Haon communal farm.

A United Nations spokesman said that certain fields near the Syrian border were contested land. An Israel official statement said that the land had been cultivated for years without Syrian interference until last Friday, when light fire opened. Israel forces did not return the fire.

When the Syrians reopened the attack this morning, Israel forces engaged them for 40 minutes while three tractors were withdrawn. Later, armoured tractors resumed the sowing.

SYRIAN DENIAL OF JORDAN CHARGE

DAMASCUS, Jan 1.—Syria has denied a Jordan charge that an armed Syrian patrol crossed the border early on Wednesday and killed a Jordan corporal in his home.

An official counter-charged that on that day automatic weapons were fired at the Syrian position of Alal-Hamma, but the Syrians did not return the fire.—*Reuter.*

Republicans Defect To Anti-Egyptians.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Monday, Jan 02, 1967; pg. 8; Issue 56828.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS135228450

AS IT HAPPENS

PARIS PREPARES FOR TUTANKHAMEN

Elaborate security measures were taken in Marseilles over the weekend when the heavier pieces of the Tutankhamen treasure arrived by sea from Egypt. In the cases were the bust of the colossal statue of Tutankhamen himself —weighing about five tons—the bust of Amenophis IV, his brother and father-in-law, and the statue of Amenhotep, the court official, as well as other pieces. They form part of a selection which is to be exhibited in Paris in the next few weeks.

The lighter pieces, which will include the famous golden mask and much of the jewelry, have already begun arriving by air, and have been tightly locked away. Paris cannot afford to have any harm come to these treasures, and a special, highly secret wiring system is being installed in the Petit Palais, where the exhibition is to be held.

—insured for £5m.

The exhibition has been arranged by M. André Malraux, Minister of State for Cultural Affairs, and has been insured for £5m. It is to contribute to the appeal for the Nubian monuments, threatened by the rise of the Nile waters above the Aswan dam, and will give Parisians an exceptional chance of seeing the Tutankhamen treasures, hidden for centuries in the Valley of the Kings.

Discovered in 1922 by two British archaeologists, Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon, they date from the middle of the fourteenth century B.C.

Hanoi bound

Mr. Anthony Royle, M.P. for Richmond and a joint vice-chairman of the Conservative foreign affairs committee, has become something of a specialist in making his way into countries that are hard of access to western politicians. He is busy during the Christmas recess trying to get a visa to visit North Vietnam.

It is proving hard work. He is going to south-east Asia in a few weeks' time and, fired by Mr. Harrison Salisbury's reports in *The Times*, he wants to take a first hand look at Hanoi and meet North Vietnamese leaders. After taking advice he has decided he must do what Salisbury did—shoot off arrows in every direction where there may be a North Vietnamese mission or contact that can help to arrange a visa.

But Mr. Harrison had to wait months before an arrow found its target, and Mr. Royle has not so much time as that. Knowing his determination, Conservative M.P.s are betting that, one way or another, Mr. Royle will still manage to make Hanoi during February.

Return to Moscow

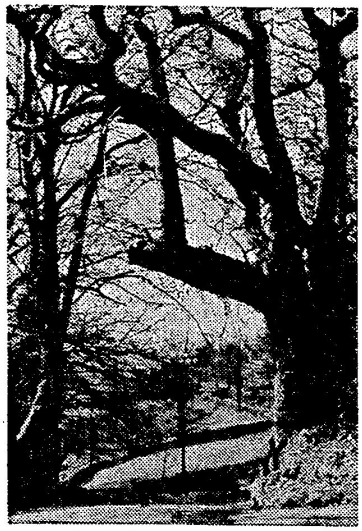
Pianist John Ogdon returns this week to the scene of his Moscow musical triumph of 1962. He is with the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra, which left London yesterday by Ilyushin jets for their first tour to eastern Europe. They are going to Prague, Warsaw and Leningrad before Moscow.

Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto will be one of the orchestra's offerings, with John Ogdon as soloist. This is the music which won him the Tchaikovsky Prize in 1962. Appropriately, he will again be playing it in the Tchaikovsky Hall of the Moscow Conservatoire of Music, scene of his earlier triumph.

The hanging oak

A Somerset reader who saw our recent remarks about the search for Judge Jeffreys's bones tells us that in his part of the country and in neighbouring counties rural folk tales or traditions of the Bloody Assize are still lively enough to limit reverence.

Trees used by his hangmen as gallows have nearly all disappeared. But at least



one survives. The Heddon Oak, shown here, on which three victims swung, stands beside a minor road between Crowcombe and Stogumber. It is marked on the one-inch O.S. map.

Honours still to come?—

Apart from the new squad of Privy Councillors, there is a far less obtrusive political flavour than usual in the New Year's Honours List. There are, for instance, no peerages for Westminster politicians. This does not mean that Mr. Wilson may not solve some of the problems of reshuffling his ministry in a few days' time by sending one or two long-toothed Ministers to the Lords.

He has made it his practice to recommend politicians to life peerages in small lists kept separate from the fixed festivals of the New Year and Birthday lists.

—processed aldermen

Yesterday's was the first list in which awards for local political work have been buried in the general list. Recommendations involving local aldermen and councillors have been processed by a non-political committee of civil servants who advise the Prime Minister. Under the new system there are 46 local political worthies in the list, of whom 27 are identifiably Labour and 12 Conservative. In previous lists all or virtually all of the political honours would have gone to men and women affiliated to the reigning Westminster party.

Until now Mr. Wilson has been fairly liberal with knighthoods for Labour's aldermanic leaders. Several prominent Ministers now have knights at or near the top of their local party organizations. Mr. Wilson seems to have found the selector's task invidious, and he has now shrugged it off.

Fate of a famous picture

The reference here the other day to Frith led Mr. Oliver Warner to ask us if we knew where "Derby Day" has fetched up. We hadn't a clue. He tells us that it is in the restaurant of the City Art Gallery in Manchester. Once a magnet for the crowd, it is now scarcely looked at.

Mechanical voting—

Young Labour M.P.s who came to Westminster in 1964 full of brave notions for modernizing Parliament thought that a simple way of saving time would be to have a system of mechanical voting. Each time a vote is called, 11 or 12 minutes elapse from the time Mr. Speaker announces a division to the moment when the whips announce the result.

"Voting machines", said the young modernizers. "They will save us five minutes on every division." But it seems they were wrong. Various systems of mechanical voting have been investigated and we now hear the most suitable one would cost £80,000 to install.

—quicker by hand

Instead of having to troop through the lobbies to be counted, M.P.s would have gone to voting stations in various parts of the Commons building where they would have pressed a button or lever in the presence of an official of the House and their votes would have been transmitted to a computer in the Members' Lobby.

This, it was thought, would have produced the totals quickly and a few seconds later the Speaker could have announced the result. But apparently such a system would have clipped only about two minutes off the time taken for a division. It would still be necessary—as now—to allow six minutes for M.P.s to get to the voting machines and it has been estimated that the queues at the machines could not be cleared in under four or five minutes. So the latest rumour among M.P.s is that, for the time being, electronic voting has been dropped.

Golden handshake

An employee who is unable to present himself at work because of injuries which in the opinion of both the employer and the Union are fatal shall be granted full basic pay during the period that the said employee shall be under treatment. Such employee shall after receiving the Workmen's Compensation in accordance with the ordinance for incapacity be rehabilitated and kept in employment if such employee is found to be serviceable.

From a recent agreement reported by the Organization of Employers Federations and Employers in Developing Countries.

Paris Prepares For Tutankhamen.
The Times (London, England),Monday, Jan 02, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56828.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS186477602

PIPELINE OFFER MADE TO IRAQ

DAMASCUS, JAN. 2

Dr. Yussif Zeayen, the Syrian Prime Minister, offered tonight to put the seized Iraq Petroleum Company pipeline at the disposal of the state-owned Iraq National Oil Company.

Dr. Zeayen said that the national company could use the pipeline, which Syria seized early last month, to export Iraq oil.

Dr. Zeayen made his statement tonight to unofficial delegations from Beirut and Tripoli, in Lebanon, who were said by officials here to have come to Damascus to congratulate Syria on her measures against the I.P.C.

He told the delegates that the measures—principally the seizure of the I.P.C. pipeline and other property in Syria—were only the beginning. He declined to amplify his statement.

BAGHDAD TALKS

BEIRUT, Jan. 2.—Mr. Christopher Dalley, managing director of the Iraq Petroleum Company, had a third round of talks in Baghdad today on the crisis which has stopped the flow of Iraq oil across Syria to the Mediterranean.

He met Naji Talib, the Iraq Prime Minister, and Abdullah Ismail, Director of Oil Affairs, Baghdad radio said.

Mr. Dalley flew to Baghdad to review the oil crisis with the Iraq Government after Syria's seizure on December 8 of I.P.C. property over a transit royalties dispute. The seizure stopped the flow of oil from the Kirkup oilfields in northern Iraq to the two Mediterranean terminals.

In spite of the stoppage, oil companies operating in Iraq have paid £33,306,000 to the Iraq Government as part of royalties due for the fourth quarter of last year. The balance is to be paid on Saturday.—*Reuter.*

EGYPT BUYS WHEAT FROM RUSSIA

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

CAIRO, JAN. 2

Egypt is to buy 650,000 tons of wheat from the Soviet Union, the authoritative Cairo newspaper *Al Ahram* reports. An agreement for delivery of the first consignment of 250,000 tons is being concluded today.

The deal with Russia indicates that Egypt is not relying on American food aid. In his speech on December 23 at Port Said, President Nasser accused the United States of laying down conditions for her aid to the United Arab Republic.

Al Ahram also reports that Italy is selling to Egypt 130,000 tons of flour, to be delivered within two months. There is no indication of how Egypt is paying for the wheat or flour.

Pipeline Offer Made To Iraq.
The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jan 03, 1967; pg. 7; Issue 56829.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS118058019

BRITISH LINK WITH KING FAISAL, SAYS CAIRO

'Message from Mr. Brown' quoted

FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT—BEIRUT, JAN. 4

The Cairo newspaper *Al Ahram* today invited Britain and Saudi Arabia to comment on a suggestion that their policies towards the South Arabian Federation were fully coordinated.

The newspaper published what it described as a serious document supporting the suggestion, and promised to print whatever comment London or Riyadh cared to offer.

The document contained a letter, allegedly from Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, to King Faisal. *Al Ahram* said it was confident of the authenticity of the document, which was obtained in Beirut from someone who had copied it in the King's office in Riyadh.

The full text of Mr. Brown's alleged message was given in translation as follows:

"I would like to express her Majesty's Government's gratitude for the most beneficial and constructive step taken by your Majesty's representatives in the United Nations fourth committee in New York during discussions on Aden and the Arab south.

"Our hope is that—especially with the good offices of Saudi Arabia's delegation members—the General Assembly now agrees on dispatching a mission to the Arab South which would be able to prepare the way for reviving a peaceful and independent Arab South, which both your Majesty and her Majesty's Government wish."

Egyptian pressure

Whether they are Mr. Brown's words or not, neither the wickedness that lies behind them nor their validity as propaganda material is readily obvious. If proof were needed that Britain and Saudi Arabia are closer than they have been since King Ibn Saud depended on a British subsidy, the letter scarcely seems to prove it.

Indeed, if King Faisal's almost acrimonious words to me on the subject last November are anything to go by, he would prefer Britain to be a good bit more vigorously anti-revolutionary in South Arabia.

The report comes at a time, however, when heavy pressure against Saudi Arabia and its ally, Jordan, is being exerted from Egypt, and it is designed to prove that the Arab monarchs are in league with imperialism. Since the Egyptian-backed Federation for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (Flosy) has opposed the dispatch of the United Nations mission to South Arabia, the report might also be an attempt to portray the move as an effort to impose an agreed Saudi-British solution.

Bomb explosions

Nor, apparently, is the pressure against King Faisal and King Husain being confined to propaganda. Enough evidence has now come to light to suggest that reports of bomb explosions in Jordan and Saudi Arabia, though probably much exaggerated, are not wholly fictitious.

Explosions in the Jordan sector of Jerusalem have apparently been heard in Israel, and increased security precautions are reported to have been taken in Amman, following reports of three minor explosions there. The Palestine Liberation Organization radio was quoted today as saying that one of its commando regiments was threatening to blow up the palace in the Jordan capital.

In Saudi Arabia the discovery of a sabotage ring of Yemenis seems to be confirmed by the departure of officials from South Arabia to assist their countrymen holding Yemen passports who are threatened with expulsion as a result of incidents.

FROM DAY TO DAY

I.P.C. pledge to Lebanon

Rashid Karami, the Lebanese Prime Minister, has anounced in Beirut that the Iraq Petroleum Company has promised that any increase in oil transit royalties made to Syria would also apply to Lebanon. The oil is pumped from Iraq to Mediterranean terminals in Syria and Lebanon. In a press statement, he said his Government had received a written pledge that present royalties from the I.P.C.—about £1,350,000 a year—would rise in proportion to the increase obtained by Syria.

The Prime Minister said Lebanon's support for Syria in her dispute with the I.P.C. was due to the common interest of the two countries. His Government was prepared to exchange views with Syria and Iraq to attain useful cooperation.

Peking housewives replace Red Guards

Adult workers and housewives are taking over from the Red Guards in mass demonstrations in Peking now that the young militants have been sent home for the winter. According to a December newsletter published in the Chinese capital, about 11 million revolutionary students and teachers visited the city in the last three months of 1966. Red Guards have recently been outnumbered by adults at a series of "struggle meetings", held almost every day in the Peking workers' stadium to criticize opponents of Mao Tse-tung's ideology and policies.

German Starfighters again operational

West Germany's fleet of Starfighters is back in full operational service after modification of the aircraft's ejector seat system. The American-made C.2 ejector seats have been fitted with lead weights to prevent the pilot tumbling in the air after ejection. A booster rocket added a few weeks ago had created this problem. The Luftwaffe has lost 37 pilots in 65 crashes since the Starfighters were brought into service in 1961.

Prince Souvanna retains power

Prince Souvanna Phouma, the Prime Minister of Laos, has retained power in the election held on Sunday, from which most results are now in. Official and diplomatic sources in Vientiane said that Prince Souvanna and regional leaders likely to support him would control more than 30 of the 59 seats in the National Assembly. The pro-communist Pathet Lao, which controls about three-fifths of the country, boycotted the election.

British Link With King Faisal, Says Cairo.
FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT-

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jan 05, 1967; pg. 6; Issue 56831.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS102067237



NO CURRENCY PROBLEMS IN EGYPT

Specialised British travel agents are still offering fabulous value holidays which allow you plenty of spending money to enjoy Egypt's Treasures and Sunshine. Nowhere else does money go so far and buys such interest, splendour and spectacle.

Here are twelve examples:

	Holiday	Cost	Spending money	Reference
10 days	Cairo and Luxor	100gns.	£48	EG/12
15 days	Nile Cruise	165gns.	£35	Tour G
14 days	Cairo, Jerusalem, Beirut ..	£130	£43	WH 25
14 days	Cairo, Luxor, Aswan ..	£124	£40	WH 24
15 days	Alexandria and Cairo ..	119½gns.	£31	UE/3
15 days	Hurghada (Red Sea) and Cairo	113½gns.	£35	UE/1
14 days	Nile Valley	115gns.	£37	VIP/E/501
12 days	Cairo, Luxor, Aswan ..	£144.10.0	£33	IIT 1454
8 days	Cairo	£98.10.0	£42	U 756
15 days	Nile Valley	£128	£37	BT/E/794
15 days	Cairo and Jerusalem	105gns.	£41	IT 201/6
10 days	Cairo	86gns.	£57	EG/8

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United Arab Airlines.
The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jan 05, 1967; pg. 23; Issue 56831.

Category: Display Advertising

Gale Document Number:CS386362405

Syrian and Israel forces in further clash

Tanks in action near Lake Tiberias

FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT—BEIRUT, JAN. 6

Syrian and Israel forces clashed again in the area round Lake Tiberias today. In Damascus it was stated that an Israel tractor had been destroyed by Syrian fire after crossing the armistice line, and two Israel outposts had been knocked out in a second incident.

Israel said that Syrian tanks had gone into action in two different sectors of the border, but had inflicted no casualties. Each side accused the other of encroachments.

There have been almost daily incidents along the Syrian-Israel border since the New Year began, and, although they have been relatively minor, the possibility that one side or the other will raise the level is always present.

In Iraq today, President Abdul Rahman Arif attended a large military parade through Baghdad in commemoration of the forty-sixth anniversary of the foundation of the Iraq Army. Major-General Hammoudi Mehdi, the Chief of Staff, said the Army was now prepared to wage the decisive battle for the liberation of usurped Palestine.

The parade was also attended by a delegation from the Unified Arab Command, led by General Amer, the Commander-in-Chief.

COMPLAINT TO U.N. TRUCE FORCE

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

TEL AVIV, JAN. 6

Israel complained to the United Nations truce supervision headquarters in Jerusalem today that Syrian tanks had shelled Israel territory today in two sectors near Lake Tiberias.

The Syrians were said to have harassed Arab peasant women earlier. The Syrians claimed that Israel soldiers near Almagor, north of the lake, fired on the women.

The Israelis then said that Syrian tanks fired six shells at an Israel tractor driver in the demilitarized zone south-east of the lake. When the driver dived for cover, heavy machine-gun fire was directed at him.

At midday, three or four Syrian tanks were said to have fired 18 shells across the border in the Almagor sector.

EGYPT BANS 'KHARTOUM'

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

CAIRO, JAN. 6

The Egyptian board of censors has banned the film *Khartoum*, with Charlton Heston as General Gordon and Sir Laurence Olivier as the Mahdi. The film, part of which was shot in Egypt, was described by the censorship director, Mustapha Darwish, as "controversial and discrediting our history".

Britain accused of treachery

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BEIHAN, JAN. 5

The Amir of Beihan state, Salah bin Husain al Habili, is more angry with the British than with the Egyptians, whose aircraft a few months ago attacked his pink and white palace, wounding three of his brother's children.

"The British Government are treacherous", he said today. He is furious because Britain has, he said, refused military protection for his isolated land, now a British protectorate, after it becomes independent in 1968 along with other states of the South Arabian Federation.

A desolate patch of desert and stony hills along the Yemen border, Beihan has been drawn into President Nasser's struggle to gain power on the Arabian peninsula. The departure of British garrisons and aircraft from South Arabia will abruptly tilt the power balance more in Egypt's favour.

The Amir said his grievance was not against the British people but against the present Government, who had declined to undertake Beihan's future protection. He was careful to speak kindly of President Nasser, although Egyptian MiG aircraft have already, by British count, made seven attacks on Beihan; he went farther and said that he would welcome Soviet and Chinese technicians and military and economic assistance if Britain and the United States were stingy with their aid.—*New York Times News Service.*

THREE SOLDIERS HURT IN ADEN INCIDENTS

ADEN, Jan. 6.—Two British soldiers were slightly injured in a grenade attack on a security patrol vehicle in the Shaikh Othman district of Aden tonight. Earlier today, a British soldier had slight injuries when a booby trap exploded in his face as he picked up a paper bag filled with gelignite near the Supreme Court in Aden.—*Reuter.*

Syrian and Israel forces in further clash.
FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jan 07, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56833.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS85158951

'POISON GAS ATTACK' IN YEMEN

QARA, YEMEN, Jan. 8.—Twelve Ilyushin heavy bombers attacked Katar, near Sada, with poison gas, killing more than 125 persons, sources reported at royalist headquarters here today. It was believed that 600 gas bombs had been shipped from China to Arrahiba air base as direct aid to the republican regime.

Some 120 people were in hospital in a critical condition, including, it was said, more than 50 blinded soldiers.—*Associated Press.*

Egypt accused of Yemen atrocities, page 8.

DRUG ERROR BLAMED FOR DEATHS

BRUSSELS, Jan. 8.—Between 10 and 20 people are believed to have died as a result of an alleged error in the labelling of medical drugs delivered to the Arthur Gailly Medical Institute in Charleroi, Belgium.

The main error was made by a new storekeeper at the Brussels suppliers, who filled a bottle marked "benzoate of oestradiol" with digitalin.—*Reuter.*

News in Brief.
The Times (London, England),Monday, Jan 09, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56834.

Category: News in Brief

Gale Document Number:CS18312233

EGYPT OUTSTAYS HER WELCOME

Since PRESIDENT SALLAL took over the premiership of Yemen himself last September more republicans have been breaking their links with the Sana regime and seeking asylum abroad. If the latest of them, MUHAMMAD AL-YAZALI, is to be believed, the ones who manage to escape are only a small fraction of those who are disenchanted with PRESIDENT SALLAL. The estimate he gave in Aden yesterday was that there had been eight hundred defections since September, and that nearly five thousand people had been put in prison over the same period.

The figures may necessarily be largely guesswork. But there is plenty of evidence to show that the Sallal regime grows more and more unpopular. It is a police state propped up by the Egyptians. Four years ago, when the revolution happened and when the old tyrant, IMAM AHMAD, had been dead only a few weeks, probably a majority of Yemenis thought the new order would mean peace and progress. Now, with its full gaols and public executions, it has shown itself just as oppressive as its predecessor. And it depends entirely on foreign bayonets to keep itself going. That is the theme of all the disillusioned voices of self-exiled Yemenis to be heard in neighbouring Arab countries. Some of them have switched their allegiance to the royalists. Others, like MUHAMMAD AL-YAZALI, still call themselves republicans. Probably all of them would be content with any arrangement which allowed Yemenis to decide their own future.

According to PRESIDENT SALLAL and PRESIDENT NASSER everything inside Yemen is fine and there have been no battles for the past eighteen months. If this is true, there is no excuse for keeping a garrison of seventy or eighty thousand troops in the country. In fact, the Egyptian Army in Yemen seems to have three functions: to hang on to the main towns and a few main roads; to keep SALLAL in office; and to be available for pressure on and in South Arabia during its transition to independence. It is not surprising if the cynicism of these aims exasperates the Yemenis, and if they are developing the sort of resistance movement against Egyptians which NASSER has so often himself fostered elsewhere.

Egypt Outstays Her Welcome.
The Times (London, England),Monday, Jan 09, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56834.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS184904745

Yemen saboteurs arrested in Saudi Arabia

Egyptians named as instructors

FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT—BEIRUT, JAN. 9

Saudi Arabia said today that Yemen infiltrators, trained by Egypt, had been arrested inside its territory, with quantities of bombs, explosives, and other weapons of destruction.

The announcement, by the Ministry of the Interior, was broadcast by Mecca radio and was the first official confirmation of reports about terrorist activity in Saudi Arabia.

These have come mostly from Cairo and have been described as the beginning of the struggle against King Faisal's regime.

According to the statement, some infiltrators, whose exact number was not given, surrendered to the Saudi authorities and confessed. The details are to be published later.

They also admitted "that they had received instruction in blasting and sabotage from the Egyptian commands in Yemen and were trained in sabotage activities in Taiz and Sana by Egyptians". When the investigation was completed, the statement said, the saboteurs would be committed for trial.

As Jordan has already complained of attempts at sabotage by infiltrators trained in Syria, the confrontation between revolutionary and traditionalist Arab states seems to have entered a radically new phase.

In addition to this disarray, on the Syrian border with Israel there has been an exchange of fire on seven of this year's nine days. During a four-hour battle today, Syria claimed to have destroyed an Israel tank without loss to itself. Israel said that it had destroyed two Syrian tanks. The fighting was eventually brought to a stop by the United Nations truce supervisory organization.

Each side accused the other of firing first.

BOMB AND GUN ATTACKS IN ADEN

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

ADEN, JAN. 9

In a new outbreak of violence, involving shooting and grenade attacks, two people have been killed and 10, including three British soldiers, have been injured in Aden during the past 24 hours. No arrests have been reported.

An unknown gunman fired three shots yesterday afternoon at Dr. Kenneth Jones, Permanent Secretary of the South Arabian Federal Ministry of Health, as he was driving through the Crater district of Aden.

One bullet hit the windscreen and another lodged in his car, but he was unhurt. Later Dr. Jones was visited at his house by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Niaz Husain, a South Arabian of Pakistan origin. In the evening, Niaz Husain was shot dead.

British troops who were helping local police to investigate Husain's murder twice came under grenade attack.

British casualties denied

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

CAIRO, JAN. 9

The Egyptian Middle East news agency today claimed that 36 British officers and men had been killed, and 14 seriously injured, after an attack last week on the British base in Dhala, in the South Arabian Federation, by commandos of the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (Flosy).

A Ministry of Defence spokesman in London denied the Dhala report. "It did not happen", he said.

TWO EGYPTIAN PILOTS TELL OF ESCAPE

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

AMMAN, JAN. 9

Two Egyptian Air Force flight captains, Muhammad Abdul and Saed Elfadeel, both 32, revealed at a press conference here tonight that they had defected to Saudi Arabia in June because, they said, the situation in Egypt had become unbearable.

They were in Jordan because it was the only Arab country that had the courage to fight President Nasser, who they said had ordered them to bomb their brethren in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. They refused to say how they left Egypt "because many others of our colleagues in the Egyptian Air Force will follow the same way".

Yemen saboteurs arrested in Saudi Arabia.
FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jan 10, 1967; pg. 8; Issue 56835.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS134442026

FROM DAY TO DAY

BRITISH TROOPS' FAREWELL

The last 60 British troops to leave east Malaysia have sailed from Kuching in the troopship Empire Kittywake, leaving only a small R.A.F. contingent. In a dockside speech Mr. Tawi Seli, the Sarawak Chief Minister, said the British and Commonwealth forces had been "our colleagues and our friends during the times of adversity so recently ended". There was a large crowd present.

The departure ended a Commonwealth forces connexion with Kuching which began on December 11, 1962, when 40 Marine Commando troops disembarked from H.M.S. Albion in a fleet of local small craft hurriedly pressed into service. From then until today the port handled 240 military transports. The withdrawal began on August 7, after the peace agreement between Malaysia and Indonesia.

Malta to combat further forces cuts

Talks begin today in Valletta between Dr. Borg Olivier, the Malta Prime Minister, and Mr. Bowden, the British Commonwealth Secretary. Dr. Borg Olivier has made it clear he will attempt to keep British forces in Malta until the island's drive for tourism and industry is sufficiently strong to replace the £14m. a year which the British forces and their families spend there. It is feared in Valletta that further cuts would make Malta militarily insecure and economically vulnerable, and would lead to more unemployment.

Crew trouble delays cargo ship

The British cargo ship Bretwalda (5,600 tons) has left Australia for Hongkong two days late after crew trouble in Australian waters. The vessel's six officers from England, Ireland and New Zealand, had alleged they had been terrorized by some of the coloured crew, and that drugs, hoarded liquor and racial hatred were behind the trouble. Three engineers were paid off at Mackay. One later returned to the ship; the other two are receiving medical treatment.

Antarctic type of life expected on moon

There may be primitive forms of life on the moon or Mars resembling those found in the Antarctic, Dr. Werner von Braun, the United States scientist, has said in Christchurch, New Zealand. He told a press conference on his return from the Antarctic: "There is a similarity between conditions in the Antarctic and those which spacemen might expect when they land on the moon."

Malaysia frees political detainee

The Malaysian Government has released Inche Ahmad Boestaman, a former member of Parliament and leader of the left-wing People's Party. He was gaoled four years ago under legislation which permits the Government to hold indefinitely and without trial any person it believes to be a menace to the state. Inche Boestaman is barred from any political activity.

Egypt receives wheat from Russia

A consignment of 6,500 tons of Russian wheat has arrived at Alexandria. It is the first delivery under an agreement, signed in Cairo on January 3, for the Soviet Union to supply 250,000 tons of wheat, valued at $18m. (nearly £6,500,000), by mid-March. Egypt is to pay with cotton yarn, alcoholic drinks, canned food and other goods.

British Troops' Farewell.
The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jan 12, 1967; pg. 8; Issue 56837.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS135228460

All at sea over new monetary system

BY OUR CITY EDITOR

There is no shortage of advice being proffered—all round the world—on the future of the international monetary system even if action seems almost as far away as ever. This past weekend some 30 international economists were meeting in Bologna to discuss the problem of gold and monetary reform.

Britain's Lord Robbins called for the creation of an Atlantic monetary system controlled by the Atlantic community. Such a monetary system would give better results, he thought, because the fund itself could function as the central bank of central banks. Lord Robbins felt that many official objections to an increase in the price of gold were not valid because they were motivated by political factors, but he did stress that an increase would bring a danger of inflation.

Where salvation lies

The conference was attended by such well known protagonists as M. Rueff, who sees salvation only in the higher price of gold; and Professor Triffin and Mr. E. M. Bernstein, both authors of their own liquidity plans. At the same time M. Debré, the French Finance Minister, was saying in Montreal that the only solution to the international monetary problem was a return to the gold standard.

He denied that there was anything anti-American in France's position that the current gold-U.S. dollar system be replaced by a new international unit based on gold. But he described as "noxious" the use being made of the U.S. dollar as an international reserve currency.

Meanwhile M. Pierre Paul Schweitzer, the ex-banker now managing director of the I.M.F., takes quite the opposite line to his fellow Frenchman M. Rueff. Last week he was quoted as saying that raising the gold price was "quite the worst thing you could do". The interminable debate continues.

Machine tool scrutiny

The closer the experts look at the machine tool industry, the more disquieting their findings. A paper published today by the industry's little Neddy seeks to improve tool design and performance by suggesting how design teams should be organized. As with so many Neddy reports it seems intent on stressing the blindingly obvious; but the sad fact is that such basic advice is needed by a lot of manufacturers who should have thought it out for themselves long ago.

To simplify the paper's conclusions, modern design requires teams of experts—specialists in such subjects as electrical and control engineering, tooling, and so on—rather than inspired individuals, and their efforts should be overseen by a knowledgeable executive at board level. Companies should exchange opinions and experience with others at home and abroad, standards engineers should be given the important role of encouraging product rationalization, and the industry should cooperate in exchanging senior staff with educational bodies. Graduate engineers are needed not only in design, development and research but in such management roles as production, sales and technical services, and staff should attend regular seminars on technological change.

The necessity for such a modern approach to design staff is underlined by another publication. Mills and Robinson have looked at one of the machine tool industry's adjuncts from the stockbroker's standpoint. Their report on engineers' cutting tool manufacturers notes that output, including grinding wheels, is running at some £100m., a year, about 80 companies are involved, and one of these states that its products come in 20,000 types and sizes. There is a clear need for standardization and much is being done to promote it, but the report comments dolefully that "on present estimates no results can be expected for decades ahead".

Stake in takeovers

Many of the best share performers in 1967 are likely to be companies that are taken over. Now for the first time investors can buy a stake in a unit trust whose portfolio is packed with shares chosen specifically for their takeover potential. With their Capital Expansion Trust Investment-Assured Securities could repeat the masterful timing they displayed in launching Oil and Energy Units a year or so ago.

As Investment-Assured point out there were over 300 takeovers last year for a value of £500m. and the average appreciation to shareholders in 12 of the largest was nearly a third over the price the shares stood at a year before. If anything merger activity this year is likely to be stepped up. Of course, to look at the other side of the argument, when bids fail to materialize takeover favourites sometimes fall sharply, many of the companies in the portfolio already heavily discount the prospects for a takeover, and often it is the firms doing the bidding which provide the best long-term prospects.

But the initial yield of £4 2s. 6d. per cent on Capital Expansion Units and an examination of the portfolio itself suggests that most of the shares have above average growth potential on their own. For anyone with limited resources who wants a takeover "flutter" this trust offers much more stability than a purchase of shares in one or two individual companies about which the investor has heard a tip in a bar or elsewhere.

What kind of welfare?

The blanket coverage provided by some parts of the welfare services has come under increasing criticism in recent years. Welfare, it is felt, should go to those areas where it is needed rather than for instance, as in family allowances, where size and age of family is the only basis for benefit. New light is thrown on welfare and the problems it creates in a new Occasional Paper, published by the Institute of Economic Affairs, which propose radical reform. It points out universal social benefits are incompatible with efforts to give the most help where it is most needed; that sociologists are increasingly accepting the argument of choice in opting in or out of social services like medicine; and that it is at least arguable that people will still provide for the welfare of themselves and their families even when not compelled to do so through social services.

Basically the report suggests that increasing choice should be given. To ascertain the administrative problems involved it is suggested that a local experiment should take place over a reasonable period. The report concludes that there should be more generous aid for people on lower incomes, that there should be an increase in resources directed to welfare, that welfare services should be adapted to individual and family circumstances, and that there should be more experimentation and efficiency in state and private services. It is felt that reform would strengthen the family as the social unit, particularly if welfare were made independent from national and local politics. Finally, reforms might give scope for an eventual reduction in taxation.

It is difficult to quarrel with the report. Even those dedicated to the welfare services are prepared to admit that the whole system has become unwieldy and that the bill may be growing excessively where no real need applies. As affluence grows the need for services may diminish and a flexible system would certainly enable the authorities to bring down costs where possible.

Anglo-Egyptian Trade

Egypt has not endeared herself to her creditors in recent years, but strenuous efforts have been made by the Egyptian Government recently to develop trade and reopen doors which have been closed for many years. The reason behind this has been quite simple: the economy is in a parlous state and the balance of payments situation critical. Imports have been limited and measures have been taken to control the outflow of foreign exchange.

Economic talks for the development of Anglo-Egyptian trade are to start in London at the end of the month. Prospects for British companies selling to Egypt lie mainly in the heavy industries, as a major part of Egypt's second development plan deals with industrial development and modernization. Dr. Hamed Sayeh, U.A.R. Under-Secretary for Economic and Foreign Trade, was quoted in Cairo as saying that the talks would also deal with possible contributions to Egypt by some British financial houses.

SMALL COMPANIES IN NEED OF MORE HELP

Mergers, mergers all the way. Hardly a day goes by without some development, some meeting or some new announcement on the subject. The bank-sponsored Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation has gone into the business with a specialized agency for the purpose. Merchant bankers Singer and Friedlander are doing it in the Midlands with a confidential register. The college of management is having a special conference on the subject later this month.

Above all, there is the Government's own Industrial Reorganization Corporation, now officially open for business at its spruce headquarters in Pall Mall. But whatever may have been thought of this "official merger Agency" originally, it will certainly not act as a so-called marriage broker for a host of ailing little companies. If it ever was in the minds of the originators it is clearly not part of the philosophy of its managing director, Mr. Ronald Grierson. The broader areas of rationalization and industrial resuscitation are much more the preoccupation of I.R.C.



Mr. R. H. Grierson.

But what about the really small businesses who have been badly hit by the economic blizzard as well as the "close" company provisions of the 1965 Finance Act. They may well look enviously across the Atlantic where active steps have been taken to subsidize such firms since the Small Business Administration was established in the early 1950s. One small businessman, with a tailoring group based on the West End, Mr. Bernard Weatherill, M.P., has recently been studying the American example at close quarters. He took his balance-sheet with him and asked the S.B.A.'s men what they could do to help him. His party (the Conservatives) has already pledged itself to setting up a small business bureau in Britain; and the American experience is worth examination.

Case against subsidies

The outstanding feature of American policy is that it goes out of its way to actually subsidize the small man, prepared in many cases to find it has thrown good money after bad and even prepared to sustain a substantial loss on its overall lending operations. This is part of a conscious programme to encourage the capitalist philosophy—and many people think there is all too little of the entrepreneurial spirit in the United Kingdom. It also reflects a desire to increase competition by creating the conditions for small firms to prosper, protecting them from the sometimes excessive power of their bigger brothers.

A strong case can be made against giving actual subsidies to small firms, as opposed to making sure sufficient funds are available for them to borrow on a commercial basis. Subsidies are liable to diminish rather than stimulate enterprise, although agriculture is perhaps a striking exception. The very fact that so many of the American loans fail to pay for themselves suggests that they are failing in their object of helping small firms find their feet. Anyway facilities for pumping capital into small businesses are already reasonably well developed in the U.K. The clearing banks have a joint offshoot specifically designed for this purpose, the I.C.F.C., one merchant bank, Charterhouse Japhet, specializes in this type of lending, and an increasing number of City firms are willing to finance small businesses in the hope of eventually bringing them to the public.

But a more novel aspect of American policy, and one from which the U.K. could perhaps learn, is the insistence on small firms getting a fair deal in tendering for Government contracts. Some contracts are actually set aside exclusively for tender by small businessmen; the Government insists that on big projects the prime contractors pass on a proportion of their contracts to small firms; and a fifth or more of all Government contracts are given to officially designated small companies. Following the American example could be regarded as interfering with free competition here also but attempts could at least be made to encourage small firms to make joint tenders for some contracts.

Vital role

Possibly the field where the greatest benefit is to be had is that of business advice and education. The recently set up small businesses committee of the C.B.I. is giving top priority to finding out why small firms make so little use of management consultants and modern techniques. In the United States much is done to channel advice to these companies. In the United Kingdom the Board of Trade are active enough nowadays in helping companies to export but many businessmen accuse them of not realizing that exporting begins with efficient management and production methods generally. Perhaps the pick-a-back scheme already in existence for exports, under which big firms help smaller cousins who are not directly in competition with them to sell their products overseas, could be extended to management problems at home. Possibly the steps already taken to encourage small farmers in the joint use of expensive equipment have lessons for small industrialists too.

The Government has at last recognized, through the I.R.C., that the industrial giants are not necessarily the ogres it had suspected. It is now time it recognized that small firms, which have peculiar problems of their own in the face of the sometimes near-monopolistic strength of their big competitors, are frequently more efficient than the vast combines that overshadow them and have an equally vital role to play in the economy.

All at sea over new monetary system.
BY OUR CITY EDITOR

The Times (London, England),Monday, Jan 16, 1967; pg. 15; Issue 56840.

Category: Business and Finance

Gale Document Number:CS251882544

EGYPT AND YEMEN

From Mr. John Burrell

Sir,—If, as is so frequently boasted, the British Government's actions are prompted by morality, then Lord Caradon should be instructed forthwith to raise the question of Egyptian gas attacks on the Yemeni civilian population at the United Nations Security Council.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN BURRELL.

1 Essex Court, Temple, E.C.4.

Egypt And Yemen.
JOHN BURRELL. 1 Essex Court, Temple, E.C.4

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jan 18, 1967; pg. 13; Issue 56842.

Category: Letters to the Editor

Gale Document Number:CS219900978

YEMEN ADMITS EGYPTIANS HELPED IN PURGE

Prisoners branded, says defecting official

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—ADEN, JAN. 18

President Sallal today admitted that what he described as "revolutionary measures" by Yemen's new Government had been carried out in cooperation with the United Arab Republic—"Our Arab partners in our struggle and destiny".

He was referring to the big purge of the Yemen administration on his return to power in September, when he ousted the Government of General Hassan al-Amri, who was becoming increasingly irritated at Egyptian influence and control of Yemen affairs.

President Sallal was addressing the first session of the Popular Revolutionary Union, which he said he had formed to protect the revolution and the republic and ensure its progress.

According to Sana radio, 1,000 delegates, including three leaders from the Egyptian-sponsored Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (Flosy), led by Abdul Qawee Mackawee, attended the meeting, which was held in marquees erected opposite the presidential palace in Sana.

Traitors expelled

The delegates came from all the Yemen provinces and main towns and villages where the union, apparently modelled after the Arab Socialist Union in Egypt, is opening branches.

President Sallal, in his speech, accused colonialists and Saudi Arabian reactionaries of trying "to strike at the very heart of our revolution from within" through armed aggression and infiltrators. He said that the Government has expelled traitorous and criminal elements.

He pledged his Government's full support for Flosy in its struggle against the British in South Arabia.

A Yemen republican official—the third to defect to Aden in the past three weeks—said in a radio interview here that he had seen Yemenis in Taiz prison branded with hot irons.

Feigned madness

Describing himself as a political commentator on Taiz radio, the official, Muhammad al-Tashi, said he himself spent 15 days in Taiz prison and was beaten by Egyptian intelligence men. For most of the time he was without food and bedding. He feigned madness to obtain his release, and then fled to Aden.

Muhammad al-Tashi said he had been gaoled by the Egyptians for refusing to spy on his colleagues in the Taiz radio station, who were attempting to sabotage Egyptian propaganda programmes. Many Yemenis were in Taiz prison just because they opposed Egyptian colonialism.

Two British soldiers were slightly wounded by a grenade thrown at a security patrol in the Crater area today.

Former Intra Bank chairman held

FROM OUR LATIN AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, JAN. 18

The Brazilian Police have formally arrested Yussif Beidas, former chairman of the Intra Bank of Beirut, at the request of the Lebanese Government. Intra suspended business on October 14 for lack of funds to meet withdrawals.

Beidas was in São Paulo when the bank failed, and was recently admitted to hospital after a heart attack. There is now a police guard outside his room.

There is no extradition treaty between the two countries, but the Lebanese Chargé d'Affaires asked for the arrest on the diplomatic principle of reciprocity among friendly nations.

The Brazilian Foreign Ministry passed the request to Senhor Medeiros Silva, the Minister of Justice, who ordered Beidas into the custody of the Federal Supreme Court for 60 days while it decided the case. His lawyers propose to appeal against the order for his arrest.

SKIRMISH NEAR GULF OF AQABA

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

TEL AVIV, JAN. 18

Three Israel soldiers were reported slightly injured today in a brief skirmish with Jordanians near the Gulf of Aqaba. The Jordanians said they suffered no casualties. In complaints to the United Nations truce supervision organization in Jerusalem, each side accused the other of having opened fire.

ARRIVAL IN AMMAN OF U.S. ARMS

AMMAN, Jan. 18.—A first consignment of American arms and equipment was flown in today as part of a recent deal between Jordan and the United States. An official announcement gave no further details.—*Reuter.*

Yemen Admits Egyptians Helped In Purge.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jan 19, 1967; pg. 7; Issue 56843.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS118451251

PLOT TRIAL OFFICERS' ALLEGATIONS

Aircraft sabotage plan to kill Mr. Papandreou

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—ATHENS, JAN. 22

Officers standing trial before the Athens court martial for the Aspida plot have said that an attempt on the life of Mr. George Papandreou in July, 1965, when he was still Prime Minister, was foiled by the Greek Intelligence.

Captain Theofanis Tombras, one of the 28 defendants facing charges of revolt and high treason, indicated that a military aircraft which was to have flown Mr. Papandreou to Corfu to see King Constantine on July 10, 1965, was to have been sabotaged.

The captain refused to elaborate, but said that Greek Intelligence learnt about the plot while intercepting the telephone conversations of a retired Greek Air Force senior officer who was suspected of spying on behalf of the American air attaché in Athens.

Captain Tombras, who was in charge of a telephone tapping unit, said he would make full disclosures at the "right time". He said that Mr. Papandreou and his party, who included the Minister of Justice and the President of Parliament, had been switched at the last minute to a commercial flight to Corfu.

Flight Lieutenant G. Haralambopoulos, another defendant, confirmed the captain's statement.

Five days after the alleged attempt, Mr. Papandreou resigned after clashing with the King over the investigation of the Aspida plot, in which his son had been named.

This was one of the "state secrets" divulged in court after the Aspida defendants had declared that they would reveal any secret if it could help their defence.

Warning by judge

Earlier, another defendant accused one prosecution witness, an Army major, of being responsible for a leakage of the fact that Soviet anti-aircraft missiles ordered by Cyprus had been diverted to Egypt in March 1965, and that Greek Army officers under assumed Greek Cypriot identities, had been receiving training in their use in Egypt. The defendant said the major had revealed this to the Italian military attaché in Cairo during a reception. The attaché had in turn notified Nato. Greece had subsequently been compelled to withdraw these officers from Egypt.

Another prosecution witness was accused by defendants yesterday of having organized on behalf of the Americans an espionage network in Egypt. As a consequence, 27 Greeks living in Egypt had been court-martialled in Cairo in 1959, the defendant added.

This brisk and unrestrained disclosure of military secrets at public sessions has disturbed the presiding Judge, Major-General Kamberis, to the extent that he held a meeting with defendants and their lawyers behind closed doors last week, to point out that they might be jeopardizing vital national interests.

The trial, which has completed 10 weeks of hearings, will be resumed tomorrow.

MISSING ITALIAN DOSSIERS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

ROME, JAN. 22

Signor Tremelloni, the Minister of Defence, has ordered an inquiry into Italy's counter-espionage services. This follows allegations that not only have eminent politicians been under surveillance, but their dossiers have somehow been lost.

The implication in demands for an inquiry is that the counter-espionage services have been involved in internal politics, though it is not altogether clear that it is so. The collection of dossiers and tapping of telephones is said to have been going on for about 10 years.

Recently the services were reorganized and a new head appointed. Then, it is said, it was discovered that some of the dossiers were missing.

EXPLOSION DAMAGE IN CYPRUS

NICOSIA, Jan. 22.—Two explosions early this morning caused heavy damage to the building housing the offices and club of Akel, the Cyprus Communist Party, at the Port of Limassol. The explosions blew out the main door and windows and part of the roof.

The caretaker and his family were asleep at the back of the building. They received treatment for shock.—*Reuter.*

Aircraft sabotage plan to kill Mr. Papandreou.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Monday, Jan 23, 1967; pg. 8; Issue 56846.

Category: Law

Gale Document Number:CS135490615

SOUTH ARABIA'S FEAR OF EGYPTIAN DOMINATION

'Save us from slavery' plea to U Thant

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—ADEN, JAN. 22

Husain Ali Bayoomi, Secretary-General of the United National Party of Aden, in a telegram today to U Thant, appealed for help to save South Arabia from "Egyptian slavery".

His appeal to the United Nations Secretary-General was provoked by disturbances here on Thursday and Friday which followed the calling of a 24-hour general strike by the banned National Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (N.L.F.) to protest against the annexation of Aden by Britain 128 years ago.

In the disturbances nine Arab policemen, four British soldiers and an Arab civilian were wounded by pistol shots and grenades. Some shops were looted.

Ninety-eight people were arrested during the disorders, which, Mr. Bayoomi said in his telegram, amply illustrated the lengths to which Egyptians would go in their "determination to impose on Aden the same brutal colonialist domination as they are inflicting on our unhappy brothers in Yemen".

New front opened

A secret revolutionary front opposed to President Abdullah al-Sallal and the Egyptian presence in Yemen is said to have been formed. The front, which includes Yemen army officers, has secretly distributed leaflets in Sana attacking the President and the Egyptians.

Ali Muhammad al-Olufi, a former principal of Sana secondary school, told a press conference here today that the front was created after President Sallal's return to power last September.

Since the overthrow of the Government of General Hassan al-Amri, a wide purge of the Yemen administration has been reported, resulting in many republicans defecting to the royalist or anti-Egyptian republican ranks.

Ali al-Olufi is the fourth defector to Aden. He said that the new front's objective was to get rid of the Egyptians in Yemen. He is seeking political asylum in the South Arabian Federation.

Coexistence policy for Iran

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

TEHERAN, JAN. 22

In a policy statement Ardeshir Zahedi, the new Foreign Minister, said that Iran would accept aid from other countries provided it was unconditional.

Mr. Zahedi, who replaced Abass Aram, now Iranian Ambassador in London, in his first public statement took pride in Iran's role in helping to solve the differences between Afghanistan and Pakistan as well as between Pakistan and Malaysia.

He said that Iran's foreign policy was a pragmatic national policy and friendship with one nation did not preclude association and friendship with another. "This is what we understand by coexistence, in which Iran strongly believes", he added.

400 REPORTED HELD AFTER EXPLOSIONS

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

CAIRO, JAN. 22

Some 400 people have been arrested in Saudi Arabia after a series of explosions in several parts of the country this month, according to the newspaper *Al Ahram*. Its report today said that those arrested were Palestinians, Yemenis, and Saudis.

The newspaper's Beirut correspondent said explosions had occurred in the Ministry of Defence and the office of a senior United States adviser, in Riyadh, the Saudi Arabian capital; others were said to have damaged the palace of Emir Abdel Rahman in Askaka, and the quarters of security forces in Dammam.

M.P. HAS DISCUSSIONS IN CAIRO

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

CAIRO, JAN. 22

Ways to improve Britain's relations with the United Arab Republic were discussed here today at a one-hour meeting between President Nasser and Mr. Colin Jackson, M.P. for Brighouse and Spenborough, who is secretary of the Anglo-U.A.R. Parliamentary group. During a week's private visit to Egypt, Mr. Jackson has also conferred with Mahmoud Riad, the Foreign Minister, and Muhammad Fayek, the Information Minister.

Labour dispute among I.L.O. staff

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

GENEVA, JAN. 22

A senior official of the International Labour Office today brushed aside as "exaggerated" reports that this veteran United Nations organization, which exists to promote harmonious employer-worker relations throughout the world, is on the verge of a strike by its office staff.

He said negotiations were continuing between the I.L.O. administration and the association representing the majority of the 500 secretaries, office attendants, and copy typists. The workers are opposing a decision that their annual pay increment should be pegged to 2.6 per cent this year, only half of what they have been accustomed to.

The staff association, regarded as the strongest of the trade unions formed by United Nations staff in Geneva, has resorted to a strike call over pay at least once in the recent past. On that occasion a compromise was reached.

The I.L.O. decision to cut back on the regular pay increase follows a survey carried out at the administration's request by a research concern. The result showed that United Nations clerical salaries were well above the average paid by commercial concerns in Geneva.

FEW BACHELORS

Junior copy typists in United Nations agencies receive about £100 a month, a figure that lures competent office girls from other western European countries, particularly Britain and Holland. Many of them soon find, however, that higher pay means reduced matrimonial prospects in a city with an acurate dearth of eligible bachelors.

Salaries in the "general services" category, to which office workers belong, range up to almost £170 a month. This is still below the minimum level for the "professional" grades of United Nations officials, who may fairly be described in general as the world's best paid employees in relation to their productivity.

The I.L.O. union bases its claims on the fact that the cost-of-living index here has been rising by at least 5 per cent a year since 1960. The year was ushered in with all-round price increases. The outcome of the tussle, therefore, will establish a precedent for the other 2,500 office workers in United Nations agencies here.

LUFTHANSA PLAN FOR E. EUROPE LINKS

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

BONN, JAN. 22

Lufthansa, the west German airline, today announced plans for regular flights to Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Rumania in the late summer. It is to fly twice weekly to Bucharest via Munich and Zagreb, and to Belgrade via Munich and Budapest. It also expects to increase the number of weekly flights to Prague from two to three this summer.

A Government official was optimistic about regular Lufthansa flights to Russia, although certain political difficulties remained to be overcome.

MALTA OPPOSITION TO TROOP CUTS

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

MALTA, JAN. 22

Hundreds of students and delegations from political parties, unions, and other organizations marched in silent protest to the British High Commission office yesterday to present a resolution protesting at the British Government's proposed reduction of forces in the island

South Arabia's Fear Of Egyptan Domination.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Monday, Jan 23, 1967; pg. 8; Issue 56846.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS135752759

Suez Canal revenue jumps £8m.

CAIRO, Jan. 21.—Egypt's revenue from Suez Canal tolls in 1966 jumped nearly £E10m. (£8m.) compared with 1965, the Egyptian Middle East News Agency reported tonight.

It said income totalled £E95,167,000 (about £76,137,000) compared with £E85,792,000 (about £68,632,000).—*Reuter.*

Suez Canal revenue jumps £8m.
The Times (London, England),Monday, Jan 23, 1967; pg. 15; Issue 56846.

Category: Business and Finance

Gale Document Number:CS252931127

EGYPT AND YEMEN

From Brigadier R. B. Rathbone

Sir,—Mr. Burrell (January 18) is, of course, quite right, but it is not only the alleged use of gas but the whole question of the presence in Yemen of Egyptian troops which we should raise in the United Nations. We ought to have done so long ago.

But for their presence the whole country would, as has more than once been pointed out by your able Correspondent, have been in Royalist hands long ago. Now nobody in the country wants them—not even the Republican regime so precipitately recognized by the United States, whose invitation was the original excuse for their presence.

But is any voice at the United Nations raised against this foreign occupation of another country? Predictably, no.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

R. B. RATHBONE.

Arreton, Blockley, Gloucestershire.

Egypt And Yemen.
R. B. RATHBONE

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jan 25, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56848.

Category: Letters to the Editor

Gale Document Number:CS186346553

Saudi Arabian town bombed by Egypt

From NICHOLAS HERBERT,
NAJRAN (Saudia Arabia),
SATURDAY MORNING

Egyptian bombers dropped more than 30 bombs on this border town killing at least two children and disposing of any pretence that their air attacks on Saudi Arabia are inadvertent.

Two groups of Ilyushin bombers with MiG escort came in out of the sun soon after dawn while Saudi anti-aircraft guns peppered away from surrounding hills.

Aircraft dropped several sticks of bombs but about half of them did not explode, including one entire string of eight which fell all down the main street. Several houses were damaged and in one a young brother and sister were crushed by falling debris.

Other people were reportedly buried in the ruins and it was said that hits on military installations killed four persons and wounded seven, although this was subsequently denied by authorities.

Consistent story

Several bombs fell only 150 yards from Najran Customs House where representatives of the world press, including myself, were staying. We had just returned from the Yemeni royalist village of Kitaf where convincing evidence had been shown us to support allegations that the Egyptians had used poison gas in a raid on January 5.

Nearly three weeks later the graveyards smell of death in Kitaf and the outskirts are littered with rotting corpses of goats, cows, and other livestock. The Egyptians have denied using gas and no non-specialist can be certain what caused this mass extinction but the people tell a consistent story and 20 members of the international press were unable to find an alternative explanation.

Many of us approached sceptically but it is inconceivable that the evidence, which included craters, bomb fragments, and corpses should have been fabricated, and the damage was clearly not done by napalm or high explosives. Observers can only conclude that an asphyxiant gas triggered perhaps by phosphorus was to blame. The villagers told of blue-grey clouds of gas and a smell of oranges, and described the victims coughing, retching, and foaming at the mouth before dying.

Egyptian aims

The royalists claim that 120 men, women, and children were killed by gas. Doctors at Najran hospital treated 118 sufferers.

It is not known whether Saudi Arabia intends to raise the matter at the United Nations, but there is a suspicion that the Egyptians were trying with yesterday's raid here to reduce the impact of our impressions on the subject of gas. They may also have been trying to expose the weakness of Saudi Arabia's air defence system, on which the construction contract is still not finally signed.

Certainly the bombers were able to operate with impunity, and there was no sign of the Hawker Hunter or Lightning jet fighters which Britain rushed to Saudi Arabia last year. They have not yet moved to their new base at Khemis Mishayt, some 80 miles away, and are virtually useless operating from Riyadh.

Guns in action

The Saudi guns were quickly in action when the first bomb dropped at 6.37 a.m. local time, but four Ilyushins which I saw beginning their bombing run at about 4,000ft., seemed in little danger. Seven loud explosions about a quarter of a mile away produced great columns of smoke against the dark rocky hills behind.

Later, in the town, we saw two unexploded bombs lying above ground and the craters of many others. Some appeared to have markings in English but pieces of others which had exploded bore Russian lettering. That casualties were so light was due largely to a high proportion of unexploded bombs, but also to the absorptive qualities of the soft sand, and the fact that the people were still at their Friday prayers when the attack started.

Saudi Arabian town bombed by Egypt.
NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jan 28, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56851.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17787964

SAUDIS REPORT NEW RAID BY EGYPT

King Faisal urged to retaliate

From NICHOLAS HERBERT—Beirut, Jan. 29

Saudi Arabia said today that Egyptian bombers had raided the southern border town of Najran yesterday for the second day in succession. There were no reports of new casualties but the death toll in Friday's raid has risen to seven, with nine reported injured, and a dangerous situation is developing.

The Saudi Arabian Government has told Arab envoys that Egypt will be held responsible for any ensuing developments.

It is difficult to see, however, what retaliatory action King Faisal can take beyond resuming the supply of arms to the Yemen royalists, to whom he is already giving food and economic aid.

Pressure is building up on him to allow a resumption of the fighting, especially now that the Saudi representative on the peace commission established in 1965 under the Jiddah agreement has left Sana at the request of the republican authorities.

Aircraft 'hit'

Egypt has not announced the latest raids but earlier this week Major-General Talaat Hassan, the commander of the United Arab Republic task force in Yemen, said that if Egypt decided to undertake operations against Najran and Jizan not a single Saudi Arabian would fight. It was certainly an overstatement by the Saudi Defence Ministry to say that anti-aircraft guns drove the Egyptians away after Friday's raid but General Hassan exaggerates, too. The Saudis claim they hit one bomber yesterday and that it made off in flames.

According to *Al Gomhouria* in Cairo, British intelligence agents sent to the Najran area to help control a wave of sabotage are now trying to isolate the two border towns from the rest of the country. There is certainly at least one mysterious Briton in Najran. I saw him buying pistol bullets in a *suq* a week ago but he refused to tell correspondents what he was doing in Najran. There are believed to be a number of mercenaries assisting the Yemen royalists who are reluctant to discuss their identity, and it was reported on Friday that a European was killed in the Egyptian raid.

The Egyptians had some success with terrorists presumably sent in to Saudi Arabia through Najran, and I am told on good authority that the electricity supply line to the missile base which British firms are building for the Saudis at Kehemis Mishayt has been cut a number of times.

Thunderbird missiles there are officially operational, but the base will not accommodate fighters until March, and even then six Lightnings bought from Britain will be of little use without radar. Preliminary surveys underestimated the difficulty of installing a satisfactory system in rough terrain.

None of this is particularly reassuring for King Faisal and by conducting a full dress raid on Najran in front of the world's press on Friday President Nasser has made it impossible for the King to pursue his former policy of ignoring Egyptian attacks or accepting that they were accidental. He has a guarantee of American protection against unprovoked aggression but this phrase allows various interpretations and the United States is busy elsewhere.

There is every sign that the situation is becoming even more unpleasant and it is nasty enough already, as a visit to the Yemen royalist Prime Minister's headquarters at Kitaf makes clear. Here one can see shallow craters perhaps two feet deep, six feet in diameter, which are lined with white powdery substance and contain fragments of metal three-eighths of an inch thick. Near by lie dead animals bearing no trace of burns or wounds.

Seared trees

Houses in which villagers say many died on January 5 stand unblemished but thorn trees standing in a wadi have been seared.

In Najran, Pakistan doctors who treated over 100 persons from Kitaf on January 6 and after say that the victims suffered watery eyes, nausea, headaches, breathing difficulty, severe redness of the eyes and irritation. A medical report on 12 patients sent to Taif said they had low blood pressure and found difficulty in swallowing. All had congested faces. And in each case the report lists the cause as gas poisoning.

In Kitaf now everyone takes to the hills during the prime bombing time and many families live permanently in caves. They feel safe from normal attack but they are afraid of another January 5.

Saudis Report New Raid By Egypt.
NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Monday, Jan 30, 1967; pg. 8; Issue 56852.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS135621694

Egypt and Yemen

From the Officers of the Conservative Foreign Affairs Committee

Sir,—Can it be that we have all become so hardened to wars and brutalities, for instance in Vietnam, that we no longer care about the killing in the Yemen ? Three facts seem irrefutable:—

1. Egyptian jet aircraft have dropped high explosive bombs on a Saudi-Arabian village. This is an act of aggression. (See Article 2 of the United Nations Charter.)

2. Egyptian gas attacks have poisoned scores and possibly hundreds of defenceless Yemeni villagers. This is a crime against humanity and the most basic human rights. (See Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter.)

3. These actions and the presence of 50,000 Egyptian troops on Yemeni territory constitute a threat to the peace in the Middle East. (See Articles 34 and 35 of the Charter.)

So far, H.M. Government has failed to raise this matter in the United Nations. May we inquire why ?

Yours faithfully,

DOUGLAS DODDS-PARKER.
ANTHONY ROYLE.
ELDON GRIFFITHS.
DENNIS WALTERS

House of Commons, Jan. 30.

Egypt and Yemen.
DOUGLAS DODDS-PARKER. ANTHONY ROYLE. ELDON GRIFFITHS. DENNIS WALTERS House of Commons, Jan. 30

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jan 31, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56853.

Category: Letters to the Editor

Gale Document Number:CS185166911

Veil of Arab unity being torn up

FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

BEIRUT, JAN. 31

Saudi Arabia and Egypt are tearing up the flimsy veil of Arab cooperation with a new determination which will be difficult to stop. Summit conferences of last year seem infinitely remote, the Arab League is reduced to a paper camel, and Cairo newspapers have begun to write *finis* to other cooperative agreements.

According to *Al Ahram,* which is tolerably well informed on such matters, General Ali Amer is ready to freeze or dissolve the Unified Arab Command over which he presides.

The same newspaper reported this morning that today's meeting of the authority for exploitation of the Jordan river waters might well be the last, and the Palestine Liberation Organization has already gone underground. In each case, the reason appears to be lack of money after King Faisal's announcement that he would stop Saudi contributions until summit diplomacy was resumed.

It is reported, for instance, that only 26 per cent of last year's contributions to the command were paid, and the Jordan waters authority is said to be considering saving £400 a month by dismissing its own chairman, Dr. Sobhi Kahhala, of Syria.

Saudi Arabia has shown what it thinks of the Arab League by taking its complaint about Egyptian bombing direct to the United Nations where one Arab country now stands accused by another.

DENIAL GIVEN BY U.A.R. OFFICIAL

The United Arab Republic Information Centre in London in a statement yesterday said the British Press had carried reports from the Saudi Arabian Government that bomber aircraft from the Egyptian task force in Yemen had dropped gas bombs on the royalist camp in northern Yemen.

"Neither now, nor at any time before, has the U.A.R. task force in the Yemen ever resorted to the use of gas", the statement said.

Veil of Arab unity being torn up.
FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Feb 01, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56854.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS168782913

Nuclear danger in China's strife

By CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME, Defence Correspondent

So much thought has been expended on the use of nuclear weapons as systems of deterrence or destruction in the cold war that the possibility that they could be used in a civil war has been largely neglected. The prospect of a nuclear power undergoing a period of such internal strain that its nuclear weapons might somehow be brought into the conflict has been considered to be too distant to merit more than a passing reference.

It is true that one of the arguments used to underline the dangers of proliferation suggests that, should India Egypt, and Israel develop nuclear weapons, one of the dangers would be that their political systems would be too unpredictable to reassure the rest of the world that their nuclear weapons would remain under reliable management. But before China erupted none of the existing nuclear powers, with the exception of France, had suffered any severe internal political upheaval. The situation in China now, however, is providing a practical example of the way in which nuclear weapons or nuclear installations may become involved.

It was reported yesterday from Hongkong that the military commander of Sinkiang province had threatened to seize the nation's nuclear stockpile if Mao Tse-tung tried to take over the provincial government. The General, Wang En-mao, gave a warning that he would use the stockpile as a bargaining counter for anti-Maoists. The report said that the General's stand followed a meeting with political and military cadres called by the political commissar of Inner Mongolia. Sinkiang, Inner Mongolia and the North-West Region are the prime areas of hostility to Mao Tse-tung's cultural revolution.

Most of China's raw materials and nuclear installations are to be found either in Sinkiang or in the North-West Region. General Wang has controlled Sinkiang since it was taken over by the Communist Army in 1949, and he is both political commissar of the provincial military district and first secretary of the provincial Communist Party. The Chinese Army of 1949 settled in Sinkiang and is still about 600,000 strong.

TRAIN INCIDENT

From this power base General Wang has asserted a consistent opposition to Mao Tse-tung. Last year he ordered a train full of Red Guards from Peking to be sent home without unloading its passengers. But although he may have physical custody of many of the installations which are of importance to China's nuclear programme, it is unlikely that his provincial autonomy actually extends to the programme over which control has been increasingly centralized during the past few years. The Chinese Academy of Science has gradually surrendered its responsibilities for nuclear developments to the Defence Ministry.

It is ironic that the biggest installations of China's nuclear programme should be centred in the areas least sympathetic to Mao. The main gaseous plant which produces enriched uranium is situated at Lanchow, in the North-West Region. The only known deposits of uranium are all located in Sinkiang. A second atomic energy base has been built at Ching Hai lake, between Lanchow and Sinkiang, where the Army is to concentrate on thermo-nuclear research.

The missile testing range, where first Russian medium-range rockets, and now Chinese ones, are being tested, is also in Sinkiang.

EFFECT ON PUBLIC

Although China's nuclear weapons programme has so far been kept out of the political arena, the fact remains that it is a potential factor in a civil war. Is it a dangerous factor ? That nuclear weapons could ever be detonated in a civil war, as opposed to being used merely as bargaining counters, is almost inconceivable. But China is a country of great internal distances and large autonomous areas. The prospect must be less inconceivable there than it would be, for instance, in any of those small countries which might achieve nuclear status and then be torn by civil war.

Possession of any kind of nuclear power—weapons system or merely installation—is an important bargaining point in this kind of situation. The refined technical factors which could expose and invalidate those points would almost certainly be lost on the great mass of the population, which is inclined to believe in the reality of nuclear power in nearly any context.

China's actual nuclear capability now, after five test explosions, is hard to gauge, because each explosion has forced the west to revise its previous assessment. Various American scientific estimates put the present stockpile at between 20 and 50 small-yield atomic bombs.

The size of the stockpile is disputed, however, as some scientists claim that China is actually increasing the rate of her production of bombs, while others maintain that although the rate is not increasing she is deliberately stockpiling fissile material so as to be able to carry out test explosions at a time when they would have the greatest political impact.

China's practical nuclear delivery systems are still primitive. Her research is now all concentrated on developing ballistic missiles. A successful test of a nuclear-tipped missile was announced last year, but this is most likely to have been an old-fashioned missile based on designs used by the Germans with the V-1.

They are short-range, varying perhaps between 10 and 50 miles, and though they would not be large enough to carry nuclear weapons over the full range they could obviously carry a warhead over a shortened course. The next generation of operational missiles is under development, and is expected to have a range of about 250 miles, which provides the basis for claims by the Chinese that they will be able to hit the United States Navy cruising in the Gulf of Tonking off Vietnam.

WESTERN TRAINING

In a civil war context, however, an aging bomber fleet is more meaningful than when it is assessed against American anti-aircraft defences. There are 150 Ilyushin-28 light jet bombers and 12 medium-range propeller-driven B-29s. They have ranges of from 600 to 2,000 miles and could carry atomic bombs. However, the part they could play in China's present strife can only remain unclear.

Are they centrally concentrated, for instance, or scattered in squadrons round each region ? Might one regional air force turn against the other ? There are no clues to the political solidarity of the Air Force, which with its technical training is likely to be of a more sophisticated nature than the Army.

The whole nuclear programme, however, including those parts of the armed services connected with it, seems to have been kept immune from the torrent of political confusion which swirls round it. General Wang's position threatens to undermine what may well have been a tacit understanding that the programme, which has always been of the highest priority, should be left untouched by the rough and tumble.

Most of China's senior scientists and engineers were trained in the United States, in western Europe, or at the Dubna Institute outside Moscow. The director of the Atomic Energy Institute studied in Paris. China's chief missile technologists and physicists have been prominent members of American scientific institutes. The present climate of xenophobia in China could well militate against those early associations ; the fact that they have not attracted this hostility strongly suggests that some understanding does exist to leave the scientists alone.

CARE OF SCIENTISTS

Last summer a Hongkong report suggested that many of them had been dismissed, but this impression was corrected in August with the publication of one of the rules for the cultural revolution. It called for " the special care of scientists and scientific and technical personnel who have made contributions . . . they must work energetically, and not against the party and socialism, and must maintain no illicit relationship with any foreign country ".

The nuclear technologists seem also to have avoided the enforced rustication which has hit so many other workers and intellectuals, who have had to purge their thoughts by working as agricultural labourers. The official announcement after the December nuclear test congratulated everyone connected with the programme. By way of admonition, but perhaps less in hope than in anger, the statement urged everybody firmly to " respond to comrade Lin Piao's (the Defence Minister's) call and continue to make big efforts to take proletarian politics to the fore ".

The struggle in China does not appear to have slowed down the pace of nuclear development. It is possible that the diversion of scarce resources from other sectors of the economy to meet the accelerating nuclear programme is less noticed now, under the present turbulent conditions, than it would be during periods of greater stability.

General Wang's intervention could, however, have profound implications for the future of the nuclear development of China. If the programme becomes a shuttlecock between contending factions, a whole new aspect of nuclear power, in a hitherto uncharted situation, will be revealed.

Nuclear danger in China's strife.
CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Feb 01, 1967; pg. 13; Issue 56854.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS220032065

Egypt ready for U.N. inquiry about gas

Yemen attacks again denied

From NICHOLAS HERBERT—BEIRUT, FEB. 1

Egypt said today that she would accept a United Nations investigation of allegations that she had used poison gas in the war against the Yemen royalists.

The Cairo press says that Britain and the United States are trying to exploit the situation in a psychological battle against the United Arab Republic.

Mr. Wilson's statement in the Commons yesterday that he had evidence strongly suggesting that poison gas might have been used produced an immediate response from Mr. Muhammad Fayek, Egypt's Minister of National Guidance, who said that it put the allegations in another light.

Egypt had formerly ignored them but he would now like to state categorically that the United Arab Republic did not, and had not, used poison gas. The Yemen Republic had agreed to give a United Nations investigating commission every assistance in making its study.

No one, I suspect, would be better pleased to see a properly constituted United Nations mission make an investigation than the 20 western correspondents who visited the Yemen royalist village of Kitaf recently and reported the lay view that something like poison gas must have been used.

Victims in hospital

The absence of technical advice was complete, as the Red Cross representatives in the area refused to make any statements, but there was no other explanation for what we saw and none has since been advanced. The evidence, however, is in Kitaf and it is there, rather than on the Republican side, that the investigation would have to be conducted.

Chemical analysis of the white powdery substance found in the shallow bomb craters, of tissues from the dead animals and, perhaps, of the thorn trees, which seemed to have been affected, would surely provide the answer. There are bomb fragments in plenty in the area, there are human corpses and a dozen alleged victims in hospital at Taif, in Saudi Arabia; and Mr. Bushrod Howard, the Royalists' American publicity man, claims to have several deep-frozen animal carcasses ready for examination.

There is ample material here, quite apart from the evidence of those who claim to be eye-witnesses, for a speedy and effective United Nations study if it could be arranged. As one who has been compelled to make a non-expert assessment, I believe it should be done and done quickly.

The propaganda organs of both sides are busy extracting from what we write those sentences which suit their own point of view. The Egyptian-controlled press, for example, is making great play with my report that a mysterious Englishman was seen buying bullets in the Najran market place, but it has ignored my conclusions about the alleged gas raid.

The Saudi Ministry of Information went to great pains to corral some of the international press before the television cameras in Jiddah and the press there is practising its own selective quotation.

King Husain's tour

The Cairo newspaper *Al Ahram* said today that Britain was in collusion with King Faisal when he sent the International Red Cross a telegram alleging that a gas attack had taken place at Kitaf. Pressure from the United States, it added, was responsible for the Red Cross statement yesterday in which the possibility that gas had been used was mentioned.

The paper claimed that the Red Cross had not investigated the gas allegation and was showing undue concern for civilian lives on the Saudi-Yemen border, while standing idly by in Vietnam.

According to the Emir of Kitaf, Ahmed bin Husain, the Red Cross arrived on the scene on the fourth day after the raid, inspected the town, and saw the effects. They are reported to have removed parts of the lungs of some dead animals, but reports from Geneva say the results of analysis of them will not be made public.

King Husain of Jordan, whose Government has threatened to break with the Yemen Republic on the gas issue, arrived today in Kuwait at the beginning of a two-week journey to the Gulf shaikhdoms. He will visit Saudi Arabia at the end of the tour, and is likely to discuss the Yemen situation with his various hosts along the way.

Leading article, page 13.

All service and service-sponsored families in Aden have been notified of their approximate date of repatriation, Middle East Command Headquarters has stated. The actual departure date will be made known a month in advance. Families have the option of leaving earlier if they so desire.

The planned withdrawal of about 7,000 families at a rate of 500 a week will begin on May 1.

Egypt ready for U.N. inquiry about gas.
NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Feb 02, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56855.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS167996482

BOMBS FROM BIG BROTHER

Egypt has now said it would accept a United Nations mission in Yemen to investigate charges about the use of poison gas. This means in theory that a mission could go anywhere it liked in the country, because naturally the Royalists have been pressing for an investigation for a long time. It is to be hoped that a suitably qualified mission can set out soon. Even if it failed to reach a conclusion about the gas, its presence would be a sign that the U.N. has begun to take the Yemen war seriously again.

By the time the mission reached the spot the charges about the use of gas might be hard to prove either way, though, as OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT points out on another page, there would be plenty of material for them to work on now. The Royalists claim that what the Egyptians have been dropping kills people instantly. They may be said to have a propaganda axe to grind, but a great many other observers have seen enough to justify the concern expressed by MR. WILSON in the House on Tuesday. Many forms of gas are available nowadays, some toxic and some not, and whatever validity there may be in Egyptian denials that they have ever used poison gas in Yemen it seems pretty certain that their methods of warfare have been consistently inhumane, and that the main sufferers have been civilians.

This is what really matters. Egyptian troops have been in Yemen for more than four years. They are now an army of occupation holding down an increasingly depressed and discontented people. It is, as has often been pointed out, a situation which would be universally regarded as intolerable if the context were different, and if PRESIDENT NASSER were not one of the chief beneficiaries from the double standard by which international behaviour is judged. It is all right for NASSER to blow Yemen villages and their inhabitants to smithereens because he does it in the name of Arab brotherhood and revolutionary socialism.

The absurdity—and cruelty—of this may gradually sink in at the U.N. But there is little likelihood of NASSER'S removing his troops or cutting down their numbers much, even if world opinion gets restive. He probably calculates that things will become difficult for the Saudi Arabians before they get really uncomfortable for him. Under attack from him the Saudis have to turn to the U.N. and the Americans. And even when inter-Arab quarrels are at their most bitter, as they are now, there is always a certain prejudice in favour of keeping them inside the family.

That and the feeling that though he may not win in Yemen he is probably not going to be defeated in the field combine to keep NASSER in Yemen. A bigger incentive is the prospect of Britain's leaving Aden within about a year. The potential vacuum there must look incredibly tempting from Cairo, and the way in which Egyptian commentators speak of the terrible reactionary regimes that are plotting to take over in Southern Arabia may be a fair indication of the alternative schemes they have in mind. The only consolation for all the peoples of Arabia is that all NASSER'S Arab policies tend to go wrong. But this is slim comfort for those of them being bombed.

Bombs From Big Brother.
The Times (London, England),Thursday, Feb 02, 1967; pg. 13; Issue 56855.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS218590274

AIRLINER IS 'HIJACKED' TO AQABA

U.A.R. urges return of passengers

FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

BEIRUT, FEB. 7

An Egyptian airliner carrying a senior United Arab Republic intelligence officer landed today at Aqaba, Jordan, arousing speculation that it had been hijacked.

The Middle East News Agency from Cairo said Jordan had been asked to return all 41 passengers and four crew, but an official announcement in Amman said the intelligence officer, Riad Kamal Haggag, had been granted political asylum.

The Egyptians said the airliner was an Antonov on a flight to the Red Sea port of Hurghada.

Mr. Wasfi Tal, the Jordan Prime Minister, was quoted as saying that civilians and Egyptian military staff were on board.

RUMANIAN ON BOARD

Earlier, an official of Misr Airlines, which runs Egypt's internal flights, said the aircraft lost contact with airport control shortly before it was due to land at Hurghada at 07.12 G.M.T. today. Later, however, it was stated in Cairo that the aircraft had been forced to land in Jordan. It was reported that there was at least one foreigner, a Rumanian, on board.

The incident is likely further to inflame the bad relations already existing between Egypt and Jordan, whose King is at present touring the Gulf states.

Airliner IS 'Hijacked' To Aqaba.
FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Feb 08, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56860.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17787976

'HIJACKED' AIRLINER PASSENGERS HOME

Jordan hospitality is praised

FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT—BEIRUT, FEB. 8

Arrangements were made today for the return to Cairo of passengers whose Egyptian airliner was hijacked yesterday and forced to land at Aqaba, Jordan.

Jordan officials said that the aircraft, a Soviet-built Antonov, would be permitted to leave for Cairo if experts decided that this was possible, but the passengers, numbering about 40, were put on board a scheduled United Arab Airline flight from Amman.

A dispute arose over the status of the alleged hijacker, Mr. Riad Kamal Haggag, whom the Jordanians have described as an Egyptian intelligence officer. The Cairo newspaper *Al Ahram* claimed this morning that, on the contrary, Haggag had been imprisoned in Egypt and had been in contact with the American and Israel intelligence services.

At gunpoint

Passengers from the Antonov quoted the pilot as saying that Haggag had forced him, at gunpoint, to change course and land at Aqaba instead of at the Egyptian Red Sea port of Hurghada. Dr. Salaheddin Abdul-Wahrab, director of the U.A.R. Department of Tourism, who was on board, said that passengers had noticed nothing until the aircraft arrived over Hurghada, circled several times, and flew off. The air hostess, who was also surprised, tried to open the door of the cabin, but found it locked.

Describing the arrival at Aqaba, Dr. Abdul-Wahab said: "We did not know where we were until we saw the Jordan flag. Then we stepped down at the airport." The pilot had told him that Haggag, entering the cockpit, had switched off the radio after signalling that the aircraft would be landing at Hurghada.

He then forced a change of course at gunpoint and, when the aircraft was approaching Aqaba, switched on the radio again and asked for landing facilities.

Dr. Abdul-Wahab said that the passengers had been hospitably received at Aqaba, where they were given lunch. They were taken to the police club in Amman for dinner.

According to *Al Ahram*, Haggag had been in touch with Israel and American intelligence services, with a view to helping to carry out *coups d'état* in Egypt and Syria, which the American agents told Haggag they were planning.

Later, according to the newspaper, he asked the U.A.R. consulate to tell Egyptian intelligence about them and to repatriate him to Egypt. When subsequently discovered near the Egyptian-Libyan border, Haggag claimed at first that he had been abducted by British intelligence, *Al Ahram* alleged. It said that he was detained for 17 months before being released in 1964.

Jordan announced yesterday that Haggag was an Egyptian intelligence officer and said that he had been granted political asylum. Neither he nor the crew of the hijacked Antonov were available to reporters in Jordan today.

OUR CAIRO CORRESPONDENT writes.—On arrival in Cairo today the passengers who had been on board the Antonov were garlanded with flowers by officials of the Egyptian tourism department.

SATELLITE LAUNCH FROM SAHARA

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

PARIS, FEB. 8

French scientists today launched a scientific measurement satellite—the third satellite to be put into orbit by purely French means—from the rocket base at Hammaguir, in the Algerian Sahara. Known as Diadême, it carries reflectors and will be the first to be used for long distance surveying by means of lasers.

Today's launching, by a Diamant rocket, took place after minor delays, and the satellite was placed in an orbit close to the one planned. In addition to the measurements by laser, Diadême will be taking photographs of itself against a background of stars, and making measurements of the Doppler effect.

'Hijacked' Airliner Passengers Home.
FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Feb 09, 1967; pg. 6; Issue 56861.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS101936201

KING FAISAL HAS ASSETS SEIZED

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

CAIRO, FEB. 10

Property and cash deposits held in Egypt by King Faisal of Saudi Arabia have been sequestrated, it was officially announced today. This follows the Saudi Government's cancellation of the licences of two Egyptian banks operating in Saudi Arabia.

News in Brief.
The Times (London, England),Saturday, Feb 11, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56863.

Category: News in Brief

Gale Document Number:CS17132619

Britons in 'guerrilla war' of Aden

Curfew reimposed as rioting claims nine lives

From NICHOLAS HERBERT, Aden, Feb. 12

British troops and Arab security forces fought an urban guerrilla warfare with Arab terrorists in the streets of Aden today as the death roll in the disturbances rose to nine.

Shooting and grenade-throwing began again this morning soon after the general curfew was lifted in an effort to get the situation back to normal, and within four hours the security forces had reimposed the curfew in the principal trouble-spots.

Clouds of dense black smoke rose from the streets in the Crater and Shaikh Othman districts through much of the early morning as demonstrators set fire to piles of rubbish, old car tyres and boxes.

British troops manning bulldozers tried to clear away rocks and other obstructions placed across the streets, a fire engine was sent to extinguish the bonfires, and troops in armoured vehicles were kept busy dispersing the demonstrators.

Grenade at police

In Crater a platoon of Arab armed policemen, trying to break up a crowd of about 100 demonstrators parading with a coffin draped in the green flag of the South Arabian Federation, suffered one killed and five wounded when a grenade was dropped in their ranks. They also came under fire, which they returned, wounding four Arabs.

By the time the curfew was reimposed, in addition to the policeman three Arabs had died in hospital from grenade wounds, two were killed in shooting or grenade incidents, two were shot dead during the demonstration and one blew himself up with a grenade. These deaths since the British troops assumed responsibility for security at 9 a.m. on Friday were supplemented by at least 30 Arabs wounded and 13 British soldiers injured, mostly by grenade fragments.

Five British soldiers were wounded in a single incident in Shaikh Othman this afternoon when a grenade was dropped into an observation post which they were manning.

In all, 42 grenades have been thrown and spasmodic rifle and pistol fire has been going on since Friday. A total of 89 Yemenis have been arrested and taken to the British military camp at Little Aden preparatory to deportation. Of 922 curfew breakers arrested more than 850 had been brought before a magistrate by 10 a.m. today and given sentences ranging from small fines to 14 days' imprisonment.

Shipping held up

Aden began today to take on some of the characteristics of a town under siege. The port and the airport were paralysed, with 18 ships waiting to enter the harbour and incoming and outgoing flights cancelled. Shops and offices were tightly shuttered and there was a drone of helicopters overhead. Some cars were burnt in the streets.

The National Liberation Front, the Egyptian-backed extremist group, issued a leaflet today calling for an extension of the strike tomorrow in mourning for its members killed yesterday. It also issued a military communiqué claiming responsibility for placing a large Mark V anti-tank mine under a helicopter pad in the federal capital of Al Ittihad in an attempt to kill Sir Richard Turnbull, the British High Commissioner.

The mine was found and removed two hours before Sir Richard was due to land to attend the beleaguered Federal Government's celebrations of the eighth anniversary of the federation yesterday.

The Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (Flosy), which is vying with the National Liberation Front, organized the demonstrations today and one screaming youth whom I saw shouted in Arabic: "We are ready to die for Basendwa." This was a reference to the arrest in the early hours of Friday of Muhammad Salem Basendwa, a senior member of Flosy.

Abdul Rahman Girgirah, the Federal Information Minister, speaking in a private capacity today, blamed Egypt for the disturbances and asked what the strikes and riots were for.

The answer, he said, was that Flosy and the N.L.F., at Egyptian instigation, planned to drag the country down, to create such chaos and fear that it would fall an easy victim to Egyptian imperialism on independence day.

TALKS BETWEEN TWO ARAB KINGS

RIYADH, Feb. 12.—King Husain of Jordan flew to Riyadh today for talks with King Faisal during a four-day official visit to Saudi Arabia.—*Reuter.*



A wounded Aden policeman being attended by a British sergeant after clashes during demonstrations.

Big oil deal by South Africa reported

From a Special Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 12.—An agreement is believed to have been concluded between the South African Government, the Total oil company of France and the Iranian Oil Company that would remove the threat of oil sanctions against South Africa.

It also means that South Africa is going into the oil business in a sufficiently large way to be able to supply Rhodesia adequately with oil for a long time.

No official announcement of the agreement has yet been made, but Cape Town observers report that a company is soon to be set up to organize the storage and distribution of oil deliveries. The Government's Industrial Development Corporation will hold a 51 per cent interest, and the remaining shares will be equally divided between French and Iranian financiers.

Top priority in South Africa's plans

THREAT BY 3,000 TO QUIT

Frustration over yard's future

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, FEB. 12

Almost the entire labour force of 3,000 men at Walker naval yard, Newcastle upon Tyne, are likely to leave their jobs unless the management "come clean" about the yard's future, Mr. Geoffrey Rhodes, M.P. for Newcastle, East, said tonight. He added that the men were so frustrated by lack of information from the management that they would rather do this now than wait to be made redundant.

In talks with Mr. Rhodes over the weekend, leaders of the yard's shop stewards' committee said that 1,000 redundancies were expected by the summer as work on the four cargo ships, one Navy frigate, and one dock gate

Army, police accused of trick

An M.P. claimed yesterday that Leslie Parkes, who is under close arrest charged with desertion from the Army, was arrested "by false pretences" by civil and military police "working hand in glove".

Mr. Jack Ashley, Labour M.P. for Stoke-on-Trent, South, accused the police of "tricking" Mr. Parkes into going to a police station and of acting like a "twentieth-century press gang".

He said Mr. Parkes had given him the following account of how he was arrested: "The Stoke police picked me up after saying that a van belonging to the firm for which I drive had been involved in a hit-and-run accident. They asked me to go to the station so my van could be checked. I went down with a friend and the police kept us there for an hour. No questions were asked about the so-called accident. Then the military police arrived and my friend was allowed to go. I was kept in the

Matterhorn feat by British climbers

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

GENEVA, FEB. 12

The first winter ascent by British climbers of the North Face of the Matterhorn (14,688ft.) was achieved today by Dougal Haston, of Eiger *direttissima* fame, and Mike Burke, also an experienced mountaineer.

Watchers through telescopes at Zermatt saw the two reach the summit soon after 2 p.m. The climb, regarded as one of the most dangerous and exacting in the Alps, was accomplished last week by three Japanese.

Haston, aged 25, from Edinburgh, who runs a climbing school at Glencoe, and Burke, aged 26, from Wigan, Lancashire, who has taught at a Leysin mountaineering school, started out at dawn on Friday. Conditions throughout remained good, although much of the time the climbers were in temperatures of 22°F below zero, as the Matterhorn shields the North Face from the sun. (The Japanese climbers were slightly frostbitten.)

10 DEAD, 60 HURT, IN BRUSSELS FIRE

BRUSSELS, Feb. 12.—Ten inmates of an old people's home here were burned to death and over 60 injured in a fire late tonight.—*Reuter.*

Britons in 'guerrilla war' of Aden.
NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Monday, Feb 13, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56864.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS18050125

Egypt bars flight by Aden plane

More deaths in bomb attacks

FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT—ADEN, FEB. 13

The United Arab Republic appeared today to be impeding the transport of British nationals from Aden, where Egyptian-supported extremists are fighting for British withdrawal.

A British United Airways Britannia airliner, due to fly Service families home, was refused permission to fly over Egypt, and did not take off.

A High Commission official said that although no official notification was received from Cairo B.U.A. had informed them that permission to overfly had been refused to all British and American aircraft chartered for military purposes.

This was one more element in the paralysis still gripping Aden after four days of disturbances.

Seven Arabs were killed today in continued desultory violence between British troops and Arab terrorists. Five died in a single incident when a grenade was thrown at a British mobile patrol in the notorious Shaikh Othman area about seven miles north of the main town.

Although the general situation was quieter than in the previous three days, this was the highest number of persons killed in a single day since the present disorders began on Friday.

A military announcement said the grenade thrower in the Shaikh Othman incident was shot dead, and four Arabs were killed by the grenade he threw. In addition a child was killed by a grenade thrown in the tourist shopping area of Tawahi, which also injured eight persons; and an Arab died when a grenade fragment pierced his heart.

Funeral processions

Eight British soldiers were wounded in other incidents today, bringing the total British casualties to 21 since Friday. Many Arabs have been injured, mostly by grenade fragments.

Curfew was lifted this morning and life began to look like returning to normal, but although the schools and shops opened they later closed again in conformity with the strike called by the banned National Liberation Front. A British military spokesman said this was undoubtedly due to widespread intimidation by the N.L.F. which later held several big funeral processions for victims of the previous day's disturbances.

However, at dusk officials said there was no intention of reimposing the curfew unless it was necessary. Plans were made to reopen Service schools, which closed today, although Service families were allowed out later for shopping.

A fire in a nair-conditioning plant was estimated to have caused £100,000 worth of damage. Official investigators said there was no evidence of arson. Only 40 of the 130 employees had reported for work, and none was injured.

Gas cylinders exploded in the intense heat and a huge pall of black smoke drifted over the area. R.A.F. fire fighters extinguished the fire.

Students in the Maalla area set up a road block and refused entry to cars. They said they burnt three vehicles, and an official military statement said intimidation has been directed at those trying to go to work.

Police arrested Miss Nagwa Mackawee, aged 21, a niece of Abdul Qawee Mackawee, the former Chief Minister of Aden who is now secretary-general of the Front for the liberation of Occupied South Yemen (Flosy). Miss Macawee had reportedly been distributing leaflets for the rival N.L.F. She was later released on bail.

Husain Ali Bayoomi, the Federal Aviation Minister who was "sentenced to death" by the N.L.F. last week, today called on the people to "tell these liars and cowards of the so-called Flosy and N.L.F. to clear out of our land". He urged all to return to work, open shops, and let the port come to life.

However by midday most shutters were firmly down and a few workers who turned up at the Aden port authority went home at lunchtime.

One or two ships came in for bunkering, but a lengthening queue of other ships is gathering in the outer harbour. Although Aden Airways managed two flights there was little other civil air activity.

Prospects for a return to normal tomorrow appeared fairly good, as apparently neither the N.L.F. nor Flosy is calling for a continuation of the strike.

SHOOTING ON THE ISRAEL BORDER

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

TEL AVIV, FEB. 13

A cease-fire arrangement between Syria and Israel was broken by a 15-minute border exchange today. Israel complained to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization that it began when a Syrian soldier forced two Arabs with a mule across the border at gunpoint, apparently to plough disputed land in the demilitarized zone.

The Israelis said the shooting was between their border patrol and the Syrian position at Tel Hamra.

MORE PAY FOR U.S. JOURNALISTS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, FEB. 13

Time Incorporated and The Newspaper Guild have reached a contract agreement a couple of hours before a strike was due to start. The agreement, covering 1,350 clerical, editorial and photographic staff working for *Time, Life, Fortune, Sports Illustrated* and the Time Book Division, was reached after 20 hours' continuous bargaining, with federal mediation.

Wage increases over a three-year contract range from 10 to 15 per cent. The most serious argument concerned the employers' proposed top limit of $200 (£70) a week for entitlement to overtime pay. The standard minimum pay for a fully qualified journalist goes up to $260 (£93) a week, with entitlement to time and a half after 35 hours.

MR. MAUDLING IN LIBERIA

MONROVIA, Feb. 13.—Mr. Reginald Maudling, deputy leader of the Conservative Party, has arrived here for business talks with Liberian officials. He said on his arrival last night that he would later go to Harper to meet President Tubman.—*Reuter.*



A British soldier arresting two suspected terrorists in the Shaikh Othman area of Aden.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ANTI-SUKARNO CLASHES

Clashes between supporters and opponents of President Sukarno have left a student dead and several other people injured in Medan, North Sumatra. Arrests were made by police and troops. The North Sumatra chief of police said there had been a number of politically inspired kidnappings.

A report from Bandung, West Java, said 12 people were arrested for distributing illegal pamphlets attacking the Government of General Suharto and urging the people to rise up and fight. In Semarang, central Java, the Army has banned meetings of more than five people. Dr. Sukarno still commands some popular support in the area.

Sarawak operations

Security forces in Sarawak killed a communist cadre member, captured two others and discovered a large quantity of documents and publications. The dead man was said to have been engaged in subversive activity for nearly four years. Security forces have resumed operations after the six month amnesty period which ended on February 1.

Ban on English urged

Malay-speaking M.P.s have pressed the Government of Malaysia to abolish English for instruction in Malaysian schools. A leading member of the ruling Alliance Party said English should not be allowed to compete with Malay in schools "otherwise Malay will be like a young plant which needs to be nurtured but is destroyed by disease".

Bush fires checked

Firefighters have brought under control the last of the bush fires which swept through Tasmania last week, killing 52 people. Widespread rain was forecast over the southern part of the island for the first time in more than two weeks.

Violence in India

Mrs. Sabita Bajpai, a Praja Socialist Party official, was badly cut on the forehead in a stone-throwing outbreak at an election meeting near Sidhi, central India, last night in which five other party workers

Russians allowed out of Peking Embassy

Posters name new party chief

From BERNARD ULLMANN, Peking, Feb. 13

Several Soviet Embassy officials were able to leave the embassy compound here today, watched only by small groups of curious onlookers.

Loudspeakers in front of the main entrance continued to blare out anti-Soviet and "anti-revisionist" slogans and the effigies of Mr. Kosygin and Mr. Brezhnev which were put up at the height of the anti-Soviet demonstrations were still above the main entrance.

Mr. Rastikov, the Chargé d'Affaires, the Military Attaché, and several other members of the staff left by a side door to go to the North Vietnamese Embassy to express condolences at the death on Saturday of the Ambassador, Tran Tu Binh.

No guarantee

Their visit came after a telephone call received yesterday from the Chinese Foreign Ministry saying that the embassy staff could resume its outside activities although there was no formal guarantee of its safety.

The staff of the Soviet official airline, Aeroflot, offices at Peking airport also resumed their duties today. Tass agency correspondents, who had sought refuge inside the embassy after last week's violence went back to their Peking premises, which are also still plastered with hostile slogans.

Hsieh Fu-Chih, the Minister of Security, was named today as director of the new commune of Peking. A new local Communist Party chief and a new propaganda department head in the central committee were also named in the same Red Guard poster.

The poster, signed by Red Guards of the Fifth Secondary School and not by a party or government body, was dated Saturday, but only appeared today.

On Saturday an official poster announced that Hsieh headed a new committee to ensure "the maintenace of revolutionary order" in the Peking commune.

Wang Li, a member of the cultural revolution sub-committee of the central committee, has been put in charge of the central committee's propaganda department, the poster said. Liu Chien Hsun, relatively unknown, becomes first secretary of the party committee for Peking.—*Agence France Presse.*

WALL POSTER REPORTS BORDER CLASH

TOKYO, Feb. 13.—A Peking wall poster has stated that Chinese and Soviet troops clashed recently on the border between the two countries, the Japanese Kyodo news agency reported tonight.

The poster said that a Chinese company had replied to Soviet military provocation across the Ussuri river, which forms the Soviet Chinese border north of Vladivostok. According to the poster, the Chinese took a number of Russians prisoner but released them later.—*Reuter.*

HONGKONG STAYS CALM AMID THE TURMOIL

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—HONGKONG, FEB. 13

Egypt bars flight by Aden plane.
FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Feb 14, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56865.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67333198

BANNED FRONT STAGES FUNERAL IN ADEN

Denial of support from Egypt

FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT—ADEN, FEB. 15

The National Liberation Front, which is banned in Aden as a terrorist organization, today staged a public funeral for one of its members killed during weekend skirmishes with British troops.

The crowd was perfectly controlled by smartly dressed English-speaking young men who made no secret of their support for the N.L.F. which, they insisted, did not enjoy Egyptian support.

It is the first time since the N.L.F. was formed in 1963 that its members have come out into the open and a group of five British newspaper correspondents were made welcome.

No British troops were to be seen in the streets where, two days ago, they were patrolling in armoured vehicles. Only a few lightly armed Arab policemen kept watch.

We were repeatedly and enthusiastically told that N.L.F. was a nationalist organization opposed to the Egyptian-supported Front for the Liberation of occupied South Yemen (Flosy).

"When the N.L.F. comes to power in south Arabia, we will not allow the Egyptians to come in because they have imposed Abdul Qawee Mackawee and Abdullah al-Asnag (two Flosy leaders) on the people," said one member. He and others clearly believed what they said, whatever construction others might put on their remarks.

Most of them expressed personal admiration for President Nasser, who was described as leader of the Arabs.

Leader identified

The local leader of the N.L.F. was identified as Faisal ash-Shaabi, commander of the Fedayeen and cousin of Qahtan Shaabi, secretary-general of the N.L.F., who is in Cairo. We were told several times that Qahtan is under arrest there and there had been other recent evidence of preference for Flosy by the United Arab Republic.

It was announced early this year that the N.L.F. was abandoning underground operations and would function publicly, and today's procession was apparently a demonstration of that decision. The procession kept rigidly in line and strays were quickly policed back into line. Led by some 50 black-veiled women, the crowd, which grew to more than 1,000, chanted as the coffin, draped in the red, white and black N.L.F. flag, was buried halfway up a mountainside.

There was a single incident today when a grenade thrown at a party of British soldiers wounded two and four Arabs.

KHARTUM, Feb. 15.—Muhammad Salim Basendwah, a leader of the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen, claimed on arrival here today that he was tortured and beaten by British security men in Aden on Friday, and that he had been exiled by the British authorities.—*Reuter.*

Trooping flight will avoid Egypt

ADEN, Feb. 15.—A British United Airways airliner, which was refused permission on Monday to fly over Egypt carrying British servicemen, left here this evening with the servicemen, bound for Britain by an alternative route, a military spokesman said. Diplomatic clearance had been obtained from countries lying on the alternative route.

The aircraft returned here on Monday after Egyptian ground control had told the pilot that permission for British aircraft to fly over the country with troops and equipment had been withdrawn. No reason was given.

The ban also affected American aircraft carrying military equipment to Jordan.—*Reuter.*

VC 10 to go by way of Turkey

A British United Airways VC 10 with 127 servicemen on board, left Gatwick Airport for Aden yesterday after a 24-hour delay because of the refusal by Egypt to allow trooping flights to fly over its territory.

The VC 10, chartered by the Ministry of Defence, left on a circuitous route, by way of Turkey, and was expected to take about two hours more than the normal eight-hour flight.

OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT writes: The decision by the United Arab Republic to ban flying over its territory by British military aircraft was notified to the Britisn Government on Monday by the British interests section of the Canadian Embassy in Cairo (which is the power of the

Banned Front Stages Funeral In Aden.
FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Feb 16, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56867.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68381776

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LODI, ITALY.—A magistrate here has ordered the seizure of all copies of Henry Miller's book *Tropic of Cancer.*

Trooping flight will avoid Egypt.
The Times (London, England),Thursday, Feb 16, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56867.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68906064

JORDAN PROTEST ON FLIGHT BAN BY EGYPT

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

AMMAN, FEB. 16

The Jordan Government has protested to Egypt over its order banning aircraft carrying arms to Jordan from flying over Egyptian territory.

Abdullah Salah, the Jordan Foreign Minister, today handed a memorandum expressing surprise at the ban to the Egyptian Ambassador in Amman.

The message said the aircraft "carry arms and war equipment to strengthen the potentiality of the Jordan Army which protects not Jordan only but the Arab nation".

It added that the arms and equipment were bought from the United States with the knowledge and approval of the Arab joint military command and their procurement was in the interest of all Arabs. The memorandum demanded the immediate lifting of the ban.

ACTION ON YEMEN

AMMAN, Feb. 16.—Jordan is about to withdraw recognition of the republican regime in Yemen, the Foreign Minister announced today.

Jordan recognized the Egyptian-backed republican regime in 1964, but has not exchanged diplomatic representation with it. Mr. Salah said the Jordan Cabinet would take a decision to withdraw recognition, then communicate it officially to Yemen. The Cabinet is to hold its ordinary meeting on Saturday.—*Reuter.*

Foreign Minister of Israel in London

FROM OUR OWN DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Mr. Abba Eban, the Israel Foreign Minister, arrived in London yesterday for a week's private visit.

He will call on Mr. Wilson at the House of Commons on Monday, and will lunch with Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, on Tuesday. There will be talks with Mr. George Thomson, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, at the Foreign Office on Thursday.

Mr. Eban wishes primarily to exchange views on the Middle East.

Mr. Eban said on arrival yesterday that he also wished to discuss efforts to incorporate Israel into the Common Market and to discuss British-Israel trade relations.

BORDER TALKS ARE CALLED OFF

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

TEL AVIV, FEB 16

Syria-Israel border talks initiated by the United Nations, were called off indefinitely today. The United Nations truce supervision organization announcement in Jerusalem said that the new date would be set after consultations; but Israelis were sceptical about the meetings being resumed at all.

Newspapers said that General Odd Bull, of Norway, the United Nations Chief of Staff, had called off today's scheduled meeting to forestall a complete breakdown.

Jordan Protest On Flight Ban By Egypt.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Friday, Feb 17, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56868.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67857489

South Arabia fails to find a leader

Indecision embarrasses Britain

From NICHOLAS HERBERT—ADEN, FEB. 19

South Arabia's search for a saviour is not prospering in spite of the imminence of Independence Day, now only 11 months hence. Indeed, everyone from the United Nations down seems determined to prove that he who hesitates is lost.

This doubly significant view is sharpened by the hostility between Egypt and Saudi Arabia, in whose battle for the peninsula South Arabia seems almost certain to fall victim. Opportunities to save the day have been, and conceivably still are, available but the prevalent mood makes it hard to envisage anyone seizing the chance.

The United Nations, for example, could assert itself by bringing the opposing factions together and guaranteeing the new state's sovereignty but it has spent two months disputing the composition of a mission to begin the task and, according to information available here, New York reports of virtual agreement are over optimistic.

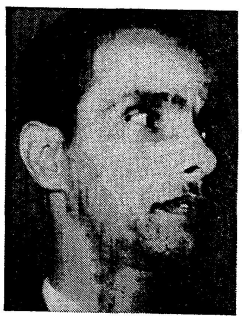
A Venezuelan chairman has been chosen but in spite of the mention of Afghanistan and Mali there is no accord on membership. Britain has made it conditional that the South Arabian Federal Government should be consulted, and the belief is strong here that a bad mission would be worse than no mission.

Missed opportunities

The delay is beginning to embarrass the British and federal governments, which have reached the stage where a London conference to complete the constitutional arrangements will soon be necessary. If it has to be held just as the United Nations mission arrives, offence is likely to be given and hard words spoken, but a delay could be equally awkward. Invitations are likely to be sent to Opposition groups but there is little hope of their attending as matters stand now.

For all the progress in working out details on how the United Nations resolutions can be implemented—and representatives of 17 states have almost finished this work—the federal Government has been missing opportunities too. A year after it was told that independence was coming, the federal Supreme Council has failed to reform its weak system of rotating chairmanship and to choose a leader on whom the nation can focus. Nor, apparently, is it any closer to doing so.

The detention yesterday of Sultan Nasser bin Abdullah al Wahidi, the Ruler of Wahidi and Federal Minister of Agriculture and



Sultan Nasser bin Abdullah al Wahidi.

Fisheries, in connexion with inquiries into the crash last November of an Aden Airways DC-3 is unlikely to assist the process.

Meanwhile, there is no incipient Prime Minister locked away in Al Mansoura prison or the Fort Morbut detention centre ready to sweep the nation off its feet upon his release. The nearest equivalent is Sharif Beihan, who has withdrawn to the border interest on dissociating himself from Britain and the federal Government. Nor is he alone in the wings.

Reluctant to join

The vast Eastern Aden Protectorate remains outside the federation and shows little sense of urgency about joining in spite of British pressure. Its three rulers have been told they will get no separate aid after 1967 but are reluctant to join the federation and are uncertain about its fate.

The possibility that, in the event, Saudi Arabia would bail them out rather than see them fall to revolution probably influences these reluctant rulers. If they are not missing golden opportunities, they are being dangerously indecisive.

The South Arabian League opposition group dedicated to uniting east and west has floundered in the east, and its leaders prefer to assume their popularity in Beirut than to test it in South Arabia. The same is becoming true of the Egyptian-supported Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (Flosy), which is increasingly criticized for being based in Yemen.

In particular, the National Liberation Front (N.L.F.), a band of much tougher individuals, is putting pressure on Egypt to abandon Flosy and support the N.L.F. Other political groups, such as the United National Party or the Umma Party, are of no account, but it is clear that the opposition, perhaps with the exception of the N.L.F., is muffing its chances.

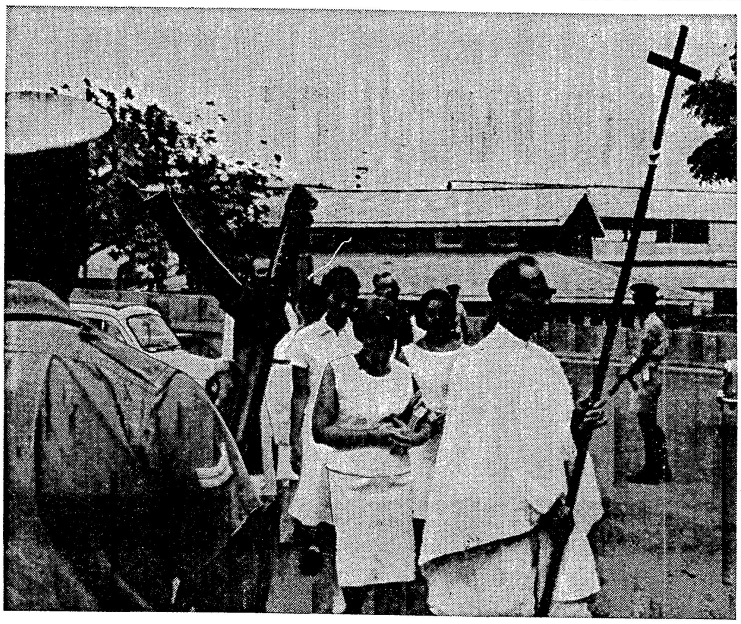
In this vacuous situation the federal regular Army, soon to be renamed the South Arabian Army, and the new Air Force and Navy assume large proportions. The Air Force will have many British contract officers, but the Army is all Arab and is already showing some impatience with the politicians.

Time of crisis

The chances of an Army *coup d'état* after independence are balanced by the likelihood of an Egyptian inspired revolution, but it is hard to tell whether the two might coincide, although the Army is carefully screened.

The initial crisis is expected this autumn, by which time British troops will have withdrawn from the federation and will begin handing over the internal security of Aden to the federal Army. Predictions of a huge massacre which would terrify terrorists permanently out of their activities are rejected by the Army and the method is of doubtful effectiveness. Army intelligence, though boasted of by the Government, has not been particularly good upcountry and might be less so in unfamiliar Aden.

The federation will be unable to defend itself against external aggression and no one forgets there is a conveniently flat route from Taiz, in Yemen, to Aden. The Egyptians may not wish to march down in strength but in response to an appeal by a revolutionary government in Aden they could do so under a cloak of legality. Hence the lingering but unrequited hopes that Britain will relent and sign a defence agreement with South Arabia; hence the vital importance of the United Nations.



Armed military police stand guard in front of a church at Steamer Point, Aden, as choir members follow the cross-bearer into church for Sunday service.

SOUTH AFRICA ABANDONS CAMPUS COLOUR BAR

Bills will not be reintroduced

CAPE TOWN, Feb. 19.—The South African Government has dropped two Bills which would have enforced racial segregation on the campuses of the country's universities, Senator Jan de Klerk, the Minister of Education, said here last night.

The Bills were introduced in the last session of Parliament, but not proceeded with, and the Minister said he had decided not to reintroduce them.

One Bill would have barred non-white students at white universities which accept them (the four English-language universities) from belonging to any association of students of any ethnic group other than their own, unless directly connected with their studies.

The other Bill would have barred universities from discriminating against students or staff members who advocate racial discrimination, and would have prevented university councils from withholding recognition from all-white organizations.—*Reuter.*

Detainee's charges 'unfounded'

FROM OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Allegations of ill-treatment by British troops, attributed to a detainee in Aden called Muhammad Ali Shamshir, have been fully investigated by Sir Richard Turnbull, the High Commissioner, and found to be completely without truth, the Foreign Office announced.

It said the allegations had been forwarded by Amnesty International without any opinion about their truth. Mr. George Thomson, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, saw a member of Amnesty on Tuesday.

The documents, which contained the allegations, and which were at first reported to be an affidavit, proved not to have been sworn by Muhammad Ali Shamshir. The case came after the investigation made in Aden by Mr. R. Bowen, Q.C., on behalf of the Foreign Secretary in October and November.

It was alleged that after being arrested by soldiers who broke into his house on July 23, Muhammad Ali Shamshir was beaten and given electric shock treatment. Five members of a Royal Marine Commando were said to have kicked and struck him with rifle butts in a cell.

'Banning' of Zambia businessmen

SALISBURY, Feb. 19.—The Rhodesian Government is reported by well informed sources to have declared a number of Zambian business and professional men *persona non grata* in this country. All are Europeans.

The government is understood to have given no reason. Some of the businessmen feel, however, they may have associated themselves too closely with the Zambian Government, or may be in a position to collect information which could be damaging to Rhodesia. Rhodesian Government officials would make no comment.—*Reuter.*

DANGERS CAUSED BY SANCTIONS

The Rhodesian situation was critical and Zambia could not stand a war of sanctions for very long, Mr. Paul Lusaka, the Deputy High Commissioner for Zambia, said yesterday in London. He was speaking to a conference held by the Movement for Colonial Freedom on "Rhodesia: What Now?"

Later, Mrs. Judith Hart, Minister of State for Commonwealth Affairs, said there was an unanswered question which no government could know: what would be the psychological effect of sanctions on

and the institution closed until March 6, after student demonstrations, it was reported today.

Dr. I. S. Audu, the Vice-Chancellor, gave the students three hours to clear the campus at Zaria yesterday, after an emergency meeting of the faculty senate.

The student demonstrations were in protest against a new "mature students" programme under which civil servants would be admitted for two-year degree courses. The demonstrators claimed that this would lower academic standards.

The target of the demonstrators was a promoter of the idea, Mr. S. S. Richardson, an Englishman who is director of the university's institute of administration.

Dr. Audu ordered students to apologize to Mr. Richardson for invading his home and molesting his child. He said the university would re-admit only students who signed apologies.—*Associated Press.*

AFRICAN FOR TRIAL ON MURDER CHARGE

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

NAIROBI, FEB. 19

Hannington Juma Adero, an African medical research laboratory worker, has been committed in custody for trial before the Kenya High Court on a charge of murdering Miss Alison Smith, a British overseas volunteer. Adero reserved his defence. Miss Smith, aged 25, from Ayrshire, was found strangled near one of Nairobi's main hospitals last November.

Britain renews proposal on Gibraltar

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

MADRID, FEB. 19

Britain has again proposed to Spain, in a Note handed to the Foreign Ministry by the British Embassy, that the respective legal rights of both countries over the Gibraltar dispute be submitted to the International Court in The Hague.

An evidently officially inspired statement, given prominence in today's Madrid press, says that in making this suggestion the British authorities overlook the reasons that induced Spain to reject this proposal concerning the International Court when it was previously made.

Spain's reasons, the governmental source added, are based on the fact that the Gibraltar question, as it is presented, is a problem of "decolonization" that falls within the competence of the General Assembly of the United Nations. This, it is pointed out, endorsed on December 20 the Spanish attitude in reiterating the necessity of action for the decolonization of Gibraltar and agreement on a positive date, so that Britain and Spain could resolve the question by means of bilateral conversations.

The two British soldiers detained by Spanish police in Algeciras, after entering Spain from Gibraltar on Thursday, were released this weekend and returned to Gibraltar. The soldiers, Private William Nicholson and Private Stuart Eric Morris, of The Worcestershire Regiment, are being held under close arrest by their unit as absentees.

Angry exchanges over unifying Canada's forces

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT—OTTAWA, FEB. 19

In contrast to the snowy subzero weather blanketing this city, the temperature in the parliamentary defence committee, where the Canadian Armed Forces Reorganization Bill is being examined, was at boiling point this weekend, culminating in a scuffle between two members of the committee and an angry confrontation between a retired admiral and Mr. Hellyer, the Minister of Defence.

The scuffle involved Mr. J. McIntosh, the Conservative M.P. for Swift Current, Maple Creek, and Mr. Harold Winch, "I had no option." Mr. Hellyer then suggested that Admiral Rayner appear before the committee.

As for the scuffle, it seems that Mr. McIntosh approached Mr. Winch at the end of the session after an exchange of words. Mr. Winch appeared to be shoved and was seen to stagger and grasp a chair for support. "He hit me, and me a cripple", declared the Vancouver M.P., who is recovering from a knee injury.

Critical attack

After hearing Rear-Admiral William Landymore, one of the admirals no longer

South Arabia fails to find a leader.
NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Monday, Feb 20, 1967; pg. 6; Issue 56870.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS100887636

Israel Minister seeks British view of Soviet aims

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Mr. Abba Eban, who has been Foreign Minister for Israel for just over a year, after a meteoric rise in the Israel Foreign Service—he was Ambassador in Washington at the age of 34—is in London for a week's unofficial visit.

He had tea with Mr. Wilson in the House of Commons yesterday and he will have talks and lunch today with Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary. One purpose of Mr. Eban's stay is to learn from British Ministers whether they discerned any change in the Soviet attitude towards the Middle East during their talks with Mr. Kosygin.

Earlier yesterday Mr. Eban told me that three of Israel's neighbours had a strong interest in maintaining the status quo in the Middle East.

The Lebanese and Jordan Governments both desired stability for their own purposes, and the United Arab Republic Government had taken great care for the past 10 years to see that there was no incident on their part of the frontier.

Syrian saboteurs

On the Syrian front, however, it was another story. The Syrians, whose arms are wholly supplied by Russia, continued to send saboteurs into Israel and to harass the frontier. Western support for the status quo lost much of its effect because the Russians in their propaganda spoke of Israel in demonological terms, and by standing behind Syria, helped to keep the Middle East pot simmering.

The Russians, however, clearly did not want to see any explosion, Mr. Eban said. At the height of recent tension, when they thought that Israel might attack Syria, the Russians told the Israel Government that they were holding back the extremists in Damascus. (At the same time they told the Arab Governments they were using their influence to restrain Israel.)

Mr. Eban clearly has few hopes that the Soviet Government would take part in any joint guarantee of the Middle East status quo, but he pointed out that the Russians do wish to stabilize the situation in Europe, and may well be inclined to change the policy of more or less militant competition in the Middle East to one of genuine co-existence.

Aden withdrawals

Mr. Eban is concerned that the coming year, in which Britain will withdraw from Aden, should be well employed in setting up a viable, independent Arab regime. He does not think that Russia would like, through Egypt, to acquire naval facilities at Aden—at least not for the present—though she is concerned in expanding her influence in the Middle East and Africa.

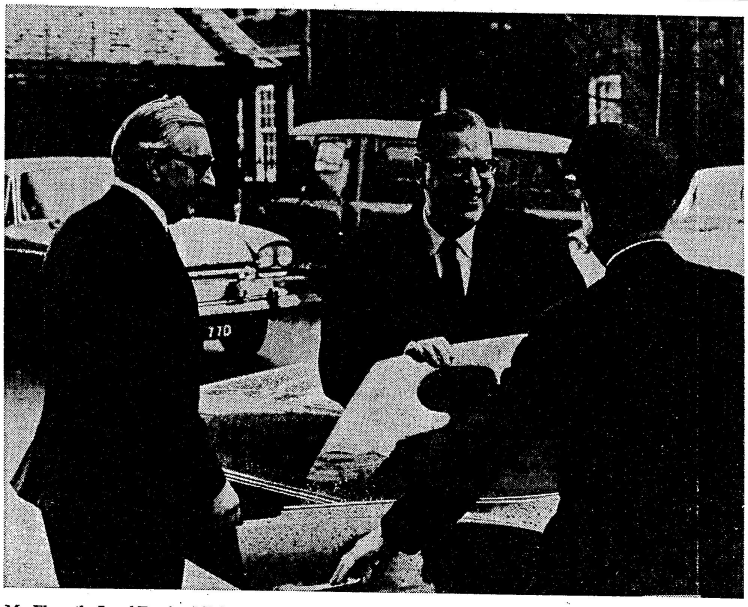
Failing successful negotiations to establish an independent Arab state in Aden, Mr. Eban thinks that the U.A.R. troops in Yemen would soon walk into Aden with tacit Soviet approval.

Israel Minister seeks British view of Soviet aims.
BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Feb 21, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56871.

Category: Politics and Parliament

Gale Document Number:CS68643925



Mr. Eban, the Israel Foreign Minister, saying goodbye after lunching with Mr. Brown at Carlton Gardens.

'Cut American force' advice by General

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, FEB. 21

The Senate foreign relations committee today heard evidence from General James Gavin, a former United States Ambassador to Paris, that American forces stationed in Europe could be safely reduced to two divisions. He added that reductions should take place only in agreement with the Nato allies.

He said that he had discussed the reduction of American garrisons in Europe with Mr. McNamara. "I think the Secretary of Defence is quite prepared to deal with this. I think the State Department disagrees with me."

The General was the first to propose that American forces in Vietnam should withdraw to enclaves.

He said today that the cultural revolution in China raised the hope of a political settlement in Vietnam and a chance to give sadly needed attention to Europe and other areas.

DWINDLING INFLUENCE

The Chinese revolution was the one main critical event since the committee's hearings last year. The danger of Chinese intervention in Vietnam had now diminished considerably as had the influence of Peking in Hanoi.

"We may now deal with Ho Chi Minh with some confidence that he is free of Chinese pressure and entanglement. I believe that we can negotiate with Hanoi and with the National Liberation Front, confident that a free, neutral and independent Vietnam can be established, with guarantees of stability from an international body."

Spain's new protest over flights

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

MADRID, FEB. 21

Another violation of Spanish air space by a British military aircraft is alleged by Spain in a Note handed to the British Embassy.

A copy of the Note, which says the violation occurred on February 10, has been sent to the Secretary General of the United Nations.

The Note reminds the British Government that they have not yet replied to the Spanish protest of January 26 about five other alleged violations of air space. The facts, it is stated, strengthen the Spanish argument that the military use of Gibraltar airport results in violations of air space.

AID OFFERED IN KENNEDY INQUIRY

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW ORLEANS, FEB. 21

Mr. John McKeithen, the Governor of Louisiana, has said that the state authorities will be prepared, if asked, to help in the investigation into the possibility that there was a plot to assassinate president Kennedy, which is now being conducted by Mr. Jim Garrison, the New Orleans District Attorney.

No such request had been received, the Governor emphasized, speaking in Baton Rouge, the state capital. He added that he had known confidentially of the inquiry since December.

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of the man the Warren Commission decided was alone responsible for the assassination, has now welcomed the inquiry on the ground that it will help to clear her son's name. She, too, offered to cooperate with Mr. Garrison.

SUSPECT RELEASED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Senator Russell Long of Louisiana said today that Mr. Garrison arrested a suspect in 1964, but released him because of the Warren Commission's report.

Senator Long gave no further details of the reported arrest but he told a press conference he was convinced that Mr. Garrison had "some information the Warren Commission did not have" about a possible plot.

Mr. Garrison's charges have met with mounting scepticism here, with Administration officials voicing the belief that the investigation is a publicity stunt for political purposes. Mr. Garrison, however, last night insisted that there had been a conspiracy.

Senator Long told the press conference he had discussed the possibility of a conspiracy in a talk with Mr. Garrison during an air trip last October.

The senator, who has previously stated he believed the Warren Commission's report was not conclusive, said Mr. Garrison's investigation was directed at Oswald's former associates in New Orleans, where Oswald once worked for the pro-Castro Fair Play for Cuba committee.—*Reuter.*

Russians may buy U.S. submarine

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, FEB. 21

Russia, which is said to have the largest submarine fleet in the world, wants to buy an American submarine. The craft, known

Israel Minister in talks with Mr. Brown

FROM OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Mr. Eban, the Israel Foreign Minister, had a talk of some 90 minutes at the Foreign Office yesterday with Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, and this was continued at a luncheon later given by Mr. Brown. The two Ministers reviewed the Middle East situation.

One of the main imponderables, although the Israelis do not emphasize this, is the future role of the Soviet Government in the Middle East and the extent to which it would uphold the status quo.

Mr. Eban spoke of Israel's anxieties about border incidents with Syria, but in spite of large-scale Russian military aid to Syria it is believed that the Soviet Government does not wish the Syrians to prevent an agreement with the Iraq Government which will allow the Iraq Petroleum Co. to continue operations in Iraq and Syria.

RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

Russia can use its influence politically in Syria and Iraq, but economically it is handicapped by its inability, in a continuing buyer's market for oil, to find any outlet for Iraq production. It would hardly wish, therefore, that the Syrians and Iraqis should break with the I.P.C.

The possibility of a resumption of relations between Egypt and Britain was also considered. The British Government, having recently concluded a new debt settlement with the United Arab Republic, are awaiting further developments, notably the meeting of the Organization of African Unity at which the U.A.R. proposes to seek the agreement of other African members for a resumption of relations with Britain.

King Husain pardons deserter

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

AMMAN, FEB. 21

As King Husain was accompanying the Duke of Edinburgh on a visit to centres of tourist and archaeological interest in south Jordan yesterday, an old woman approached to tell him that her son had deserted from the Jordan Arab Army and was hiding in caves near by.

"Pardon him your Majesty. Let him come out," she begged.

The King turned to his military aid and said: "See that the deserter is not punished." Then, turning to the old woman, he said: "Your son is pardoned. He can come out."

The Duke of Edinburgh left here today for Teheran after his four-day visit as King Husain's guest.

Israel Minister in talks with Mr. Brown.
FROM OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Feb 22, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56872.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67988566

JORDAN ENVOY WITHDRAWN FROM CAIRO

AMMAN, Feb. 23.—Jordan has withdrawn its ambassador to Cairo following sharp criticism of King Husain by President Nasser last night.

President Nasser accused the Jordan Government of serving the interests of imperialism and declared that it and Saudi Arabia were "lackey and reactionary regimes".

He also alleged that the two nations had allied themselves with the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt to strike at the Cairo Government.

Jordan's ambassador to Cairo is Abdul Monem Rifai, a former chief delegate of his country to the United Nations.

Jordan today accused the United Arab Republic of "tampering with Jordan's security and misleading the citizens". A Government statement said its accusation was supported by "frank confessions made by saboteurs" arrested by security agents following the discovery of an arms cache in the Jordanian sector of Jerusalem on Tuesday.—*Reuter.*

Britain accused by President Nasser

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

CAIRO, FEB. 23

President Nasser has bitterly attacked Britain, the United States, King Faisal of Saudi-Arabia, King Husain of Jordan, and President Bourguiba of Tunisia, whom he described as "reactionary agents working for imperialism".

Speaking at a rally on the ninth anniversary of the Egyptian-Syrian merger into the United Arab Republic in 1958, President Nasser said Mr. Harold Wilson hired men in Aden to give press conferences attacking the Egyptians in Yemen. Britain was vexed because she had to leave Aden and the Arab south, but "we shall keep after them until they leave this area".

The United States, he declared, was providing arms for King Husain and King Faisal not to repel Israel aggression, but to fight the Arab revolution. The United Arab Republic would help revolutionaries in South Arabia to establish an army to "face the mercenaries and imperialist agents".

President Nasser accused King Husain of receiving cash from the Central Intelligence Agency. Egypt would withhold repayment of debts to any country which tried to exert pressure against her.

MEMBERS OF ADEN MISSION NAMED

FROM OUR UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, FEB. 23

A United Nations mission to Aden and South Arabia has at last been appointed by U Thant, the Secretary-General, and is expected to start work on the spot in the next week or two. The chairman of the *three-man mission is* Señor Manuel Perez-Guerrero, the permanent representative of Venezuela at the United Nations and a former secretariat member of wide experience.

The other members are Mr. Abdul Satar Shalizi, a former deputy Prime Minister of Afghanistan, and Mr. Moussa Leo Keita of Mali, who represents his country at the United Nations.

In announcing the appointments U Thant recalled his statement to the special committee on colonialism on February 9: "It is my confident hope that the work of the proposed mission will be of assistance to the special committee and the General Assembly in enabling the people of Aden to attain their independence under conditions of peace and harmony."

STORMS KILL FIVE IN GERMANY

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BONN, FEB. 23

At least five people have been killed, and many injured, by storms on the North Sea coast and in other parts of west Germany. In Hamburg the level of the sea is about 11ft. above normal high water.

The storms have been especially severe in Bavaria and Franconia. Most of the deaths have been caused by falling trees or branches. High winds in Bamberg, south Germany, have caused damage estimated at £180,000.

RIMINI.—A speeding train ran over a mother with a baby in her arms at a level crossing here, killing both. At the last minute the mother managed to push another child, a five-year-old son, to safety.

Jordan Envoy Withdrawn From Cairo.
The Times (London, England),Friday, Feb 24, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56874.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS85027928

Jordan accuses Egyptians of smuggling arms

FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT—BEIRUT, FEB. 24

Jordan will retain an embassy in Cairo in spite of the recall of its Ambassador, it was announced in Amman today by Mr. Abdullah Salah, the Jordan Foreign Minister, who said that the Ambassador had been recalled because of "foul words" used by President Nasser about King Husain in a speech on Wednesday.

With Jordan newspapers and radio stations mounting an increasingly bitter campaign against the United Arab Republic and the formation in Egypt of a new information department to counter "hostile, imperialist and reactionary propaganda" about Yemen, the battle of words seems bound to blossom.

That Jordan fears it will go beyond mere words was indicated by Amman's complaint that Egypt had smuggled arms into Jerusalem to tamper with Jordan's security. Mr. Salah declined to speculate about the likelihood of a move by Egypt in retaliation for the recall of the Jordan Ambassador, but similar action is expected.

The increasing enmity between right and left-wing Arab countries is producing strains among those countries like Lebanon which have a vested interest in neutrality. An explosion occurred today near the office of the right-wing newspaper, *Al Hayat*, whose editor was assassinated last year, and Lebanon's relations with Saudi Arabia, are becoming increasingly strained because of uncomplimentary references to Saudi policy in the Beirut press.

Jordan accuses Egyptians of smuggling arms.
FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Feb 25, 1967; pg. 3; Issue 56875.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS50949209

SAUDIS ACCUSE CAIRO OF SABOTAGE

Lebanon drawn into conflict

FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT—BEIRUT, MARCH 6

Saudi Arabia has accused the United Arab Republic of organizing subversion inside its territory as part of a plan to turn Arab countries towards Bolshevism.

The Saudi Ministry of the Interior, parading 10 alleged saboteurs before the television cameras last night, said that they had admitted the existence of a plan to disturb security, take innocent lives, destroy installations, and "tamper with holy sentiments in Saudi Arabia".

"We have been patient", the Ministry said, "but we shall use a mailed fist against anyone who tries to attack us or transgress against the sanctities of Islam."

The 10 men, who were described as members of three different groups sent into Saudi Arabia, said they repented and appealed for mercy.

According to the Ministry, only one of the three groups achieved anything, being responsible for four explosions in Riyadh. The members of the second group were arrested as soon as they crossed the border, and the members of the third surrendered on the grounds that their religion and their Arabism forbade them to commit sabotage in the Holy Land.

The accused men were described as Yemenis misled by Cairo and Sana and entrusted with a sabotage plan drawn up by communists.

Mufti's denunciation

This is the latest round in the battle between Saudi Arabia and Egypt which now conditions everything said or done in the Arab world. It follows hard on an allegation by the Cairo *Al Ahram* that the Saudi Royal Family is split and that King Faisal will soon have to reshuffle his Cabinet to make his brother, Prince Fahd, Prime Minister.

Like much else that *Al Ahram* has printed recently about Saudi Arabia, this report came from the newspaper's Beirut correspondent, a fact which is not endearing Lebanon to King Faisal. Nor, presumably, will the visit of the new Mufti of Lebanon, Shaikh Hassan Khaled, to Cairo, where he has denounced the Islamic pact and described Lebanon's policy as similar to that of the "liberal Arab states".

President Helou of Lebanon was quoted today as saying that his country's policy was one of trying to bring amity among various groups without taking sides, and the Christian Maronite newspaper *Al Zaman* said that the Maronite bishops, under Cardinal Paul Meouchi, were holding a meeting at which questions of the hour would be discussed. *Al Zaman* supports Saudi Arabia.

According to the pro-Egyptian *Al Horriya*, Saudi Arabia's reaction to events has been to try to bribe Lebanon to take its part in the quarrel. The newspaper reported that Saudi Arabia had offered a huge sum to refloat the Intra Bank.

Aden Ministers confer with Mr. Brown

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Shaikh Muhamad Farid, the Foreign Minister of the South Arabian Federal Government, and Mr. Girgirah, Minister of Information, who are in London for talks with the British Government on the future independence of the federation, had a meeting yesterday with Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary.

This was later described by the Foreign Office as "friendly". Reports of stormy exchanges were strongly denied. It is true that terrorism in Aden in recent weeks has made it harder for the British Government to pursue the policy, on which Mr. Brown himself laid emphasis after becoming Foreign Secretary, that diplomatic relations should be restored with the United Arab Republic. This is clearly impossible while terrorism continues with Egyptian support.

The South Arabian Ministers are concerned over the problem of maintaining security after independence. The federal Ministers have pressed without success recently for some form of continuing guarantee for the territory from Britain.

Mr. Brown last week declined to guarantee that a defence commitment would be undertaken by the British Government after independence.

BOYS TAKE OVER SUBWAY TRAIN

NEW YORK, March 6.—Two boys, aged 12 and 14, took over an underground train when the guard went for a drink of water —and safely took it halfway across Brooklyn.

From the guard's compartment they

Saudis Accuse Cairo Of Sabotage.
FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT-

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Mar 07, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56883.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS84896871

Letters to the Editor

IN A CLIMATE OF VIOLENCE: HOW ADEN IS LIVING

From Mr. Hussein Ali Bayoomi

Sir,—The newspapers are understandably filled with accounts of the mounting violence in Aden. Hardly a day goes by without renewed reports of riots, disturbances and other outrages, resulting in the deaths and injury of innocent men, women and children.

During the past month, this lawlessness has reached appalling proportions with the whole life of our Port brought to a standstill and with scenes of brutality unequalled in modern times.

Despite your admirable and heartening leading article of March 3, it would not be surprising if many of your readers who are unacquainted with the real state of affairs in South Arabia drew the conclusion that the whole population of Aden approved of these murders and supported those who call for strikes and mob violence. Nothing could be further from the truth. The ordinary, decent Adeni citizen views the situation with profound horror and apprehension and detests those who are responsible for it. For, Sir, this is not a spontaneous upsurge of nationalism against colonial bondage—our country is already on the threshold of Independence and everyone knows it—it is a cynical bid by Egypt to pave the way for a complete takeover when we are left to fend for ourselves.

To achieve her aim, Egypt is attempting to destroy the whole political, social and economic structure of our country, for she knows that if South Arabia is enabled to establish a strong, stable and representative Government to receive our Independence, her plans may be brought to nothing. She recognizes that her best hope lies in the creation of total anarchy so that she will be able to impose a puppet regime on our Arab South backed by Egyptian bayonets, similar to that of the Yemen, when the British withdraw. Masquerading in the guise of "freedom fighters" the Egyptian-controlled thugs of the rival terrorist groups which call themselves the N.L.F. and F.L.O.S.Y. have created a reign of terror throughout our State unequalled in human experience since the days of the Nazis—indeed, it is worse because those who suffered then at least had the hope that the free world would one day liberate them from their misery whereas we have no such comfort but instead have the growing conviction that our plight is regarded with indifference. We are rapidly being driven to the conclusion that the day we receive our Independence will be the day on which our entire people will pass under the brutal rule of Egyptian imperialism.

I wonder, Sir, whether your readers can imagine what it is like to live under these terrible conditions. Do they really think that we Adenis, who are a trading nation proud of our Port and commerce, would wilfully plunge our State into bloodshed and destruction? Can they imagine an existence where no man dares to speak out against this Egyptian threat to our freedom for fear of almost certain death at the hands of an assassin? Can they imagine whole families ordered out into the streets by paid Yemeni terrorists to take part in demonstrations which they loathe and deplore?

I recently had the honour of appearing before the Fourth Committee of the United Nations to acquaint it with the true state of affairs here and to urge the immediate despatch of a United Nations Mission to save us from Egyptian colonialism. We shortly hope to welcome this Mission which will have the task of examining the situation here and helping the South Arabian people to reach a solution of their problems in accordance with their true aspirations. But if the members of this Mission—none of whom has been to South Arabia before—are confronted with violence and disorder organized by one or other of these Egyptian front organizations, how can we suppose that they will not be influenced into deciding that these are spontaneous and heartfelt expressions of opinion by the whole Adeni people?

Our South Arabian people are now confronted with a prospect that is terrible to contemplate. The world knows what is happening to the Yemeni people who have now suffered under Egyptian occupation for four years, it knows of the deluge of high explosives and gas which is being rained down by Egyptian aircraft on defenceless Yemeni villages, it knows of the mock trials of Yemeni patriots who have attempted to resist Egyptian colonialism, and it knows of the savage torture and executions which are daily being perpetrated on this unhappy people. This, Sir, is the fate that is now in store for our Arab South. Unless the free world comes to our aid, the so-called day of Independence in 1968 will see us sentenced to an existence of terror and slavery similar to that which exists in the Yemen and to which, in terms of human degradation and suffering, there is no parallel in modern times.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

HUSSEIN ALI BAYOOMI, Secretary-General, United National Party of Aden, Aden, March 5.

In A Climate Of Violence: How Aden IS Living.
HUSSEIN ALI BAYOOMI, SecretaryGeneral. United National Party of Aden, Aden, March 5

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Mar 11, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56887.

Category: Letters to the Editor

Gale Document Number:CS185166955

ETHIOPIAN WATCH ON DJIBOUTI BALLOT

Emperor's warning on rights

From ROY LEWIS, Addis Ababa, March 14

Emperor Haile Selassie said here today that Ethiopia was "ready for all eventualities" and watching the situation in Djibouti with care. He was confident that in the referendum on March 19 the people of French Somaliland would vote in accordance with their own best interests, which they well understood.

When I asked the Emperor in a special interview about his attitude to the outcome in Djibouti, he said that he could only reiterate that Ethiopia supported full self-determination for French Somaliland, as for all African countries under colonialism.

Djibouti was no exception to the rule, and its people would exercise their right to say "oui" or "non" to the French question on continued association with France.

True interests

It was his concern that the true interests of Djibouti should be safeguarded and not menaced or overidden by outside forces and foreign interference.

The people of Djibouti well knew where their interests, economic and tribal, lay, he said. The great majority were Danakils and Afars, people who also lived in Ethiopia itself and maintained their stock there. The Somalis in Djibouti were a small minority, mainly nomadic or transitory.

He told me with great emphasis that, so far as Somali's ambitions were concerned, Ethiopia did not want any territories that belonged to them. Ethiopia wanted to cooperate on many matters of mutual concern, and he had offered such cooperation to the Prime Minister and President of Somalia, but it was not reciprocated. He then said that he "did not know the meaning of the positioning of Somali troops near the Somali-Djibouti frontier. He observed the amassing of arms by Somalia, which, however, helped Ethiopia to remain on the alert, and it was ready for any eventuality.

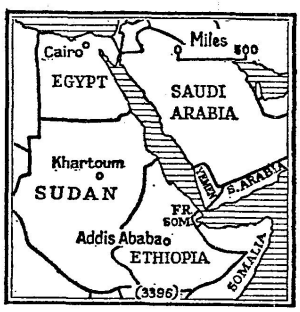
Historical links

The Emperor spoke of Ethiopia's historical, ethnic and economic links with the territory somewhat misnamed as French Somaliland—it was not Somali territory—and added that it was of vital strategic importance to Ethiopia. Ethiopia's and Djibouti's interests were close and mutual. Ethiopia never had committed any aggression against anyone and never would do so, but equally it would repel any aggression against its vital and legitimate interests.

I asked the Emperor whether he considered that a "oui" vote would be satisfactory in view of Ethiopia's support for the Organization of African Unity's opposition to colonialism. He replied that the people of the territory had the right to make their own choice. They were certainly opposed to all colonialism on the African continent, but if the Djibouti people wanted to continue with France it was a matter for them and the French to decide how long this link should continue. He did not see it as permanent for all time, and the Djibouti people would have the right to reconsider the question if and when they felt that circumstances had changed. He was satisfied with the fairness of the referendum and believed in France's sincerity; accordingly, if Djibouti did vote "non" and decided for independence, he was confident that it would do so recognizing that its community of interests with Ethiopia and its future should not be coerced in any way.

In view of the Emperor's feeling that outside influences were at work over Djibouti I asked him about the Eritrean situation where the Eritrean National Liberation Front operates from Sudan and has created links with the Somali guerrilla command in Mogadishu.

The Emperor said that people abroad failed to understand the true relationship of Eritrea and Ethiopia through a long history. They have been one nation for centuries, speaking one of Ethiopia's languages and fighting together against aggression. Why, he asked, would the Eritreans have



fought Fascist aggression with Ethiopia unless they felt they were one people? They did so in spite of every Fascist inducement to refrain. Today there seemed to be foreign hands trying to create divisions in Eritrea on spurious grounds of religion, simply to weaken Ethiopia. These pretexts were wrong, not only because of history but because of the tolerance of Ethiopia's laws for all religions. Ethiopia and Eritrea were one and the same and "will remain so".

Egypt's ambitions

I asked the Emperor if he felt that Egyptian ambitions played any role. He expressly declined to speculate on any individual's motives. "We consider President Nasser Ethiopia's friend and a personal friend", the Emperor said.

Ethiopia realized that Britain's withdrawals from Aden would bring change to influences in the whole region and Ethiopia would watch its own interests.

Refugees pour into Sudan

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

KHARTUM, MARCH 14

Eritrean refugees, so far numbering more than 7,000, are pouring into Sudan across the eastern border after village burning said to have been caused by the Ethiopian authorities. Mr. Abdalla Nugdalla, the Sudan Interior Minister, flew yesterday to refugee camps and said that the Government would grant political asylum and assist the return of those wishing to go home.

An Ethiopian delegation visited the camps to persuade refugees to return, but they refused to go home until "Ethiopian imperialism in Eritrea was liquidated".

The Sudanese health authorities fear that the refugees are likely to cause outbreaks of tuberculosis, fever, smallpox, and typhoid owing to their poor health conditions and the impossibility of controlling their flow through the borders.

Sudan has demanded United Nations assistance to accommodate refugees.

Ethiopian Watch On Djibouti Ballot.
From ROY LEWIS

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Mar 15, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56890.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68643951

Arab League cuts off aid to Jordan Army

FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT—BEIRUT, MARCH 15

Jordan was reported today to have been deprived of all military allocations by the Arab League defence council, which decided to give the money to Syria, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Army (P.L.A.) instead.

According to the authoritative Cairo newspaper *Al Ahram*, the defence council's action, which was unanimous, meant that the P.L.A. would replace Jordan in the "liberation battle".

Last night Jordan, which had finally made up its mind to attend a meeting of the Arab League council, walked out after only two and a half hours because of the presence of Mr. Ahmed Shukairy, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

For this it was quickly criticized in a resolution, sponsored by Egypt, which rejected Jordan claims that Mr. Shukairy was a traitor and expressed confidence in him. Only Saudi Arabia, which takes Jordan's part in the split between revolutionaries and traditionalists, voted against the resolution.

As so often, meetings dedicated to Arab unity seem again only to have increased divisions, and ill-will has been aggravated. President Nasser found time amidst all these cataclysmic events to receive Mr. Abdul Qawee Mackawee, the Secretary-General of the Front for the Liberation of occupied South Yemen (Flosy), to whom he reaffirmed his full support "for the people's struggle in the Arab south under Flosy's leadership".

Teheran visit

The meeting followed hard on a statement by another Flosy official, Mr. Abdullah al-Asnag, that the United Nations mission to South Arabia would be met by increased violence.

The Cairo press is apparently paying little attention to the arrival in Teheran of President Arif of Iraq, who is reported to be trying to improve relations between President Nasser and the Shah. It is a tall order but President Arif will perhaps be satisfied if he manages to improve Iraq's relations with Iran, as he seems to have done with his other non-Arab neighbour, Turkey, on his recent visit there.

A little dillusioned, perhaps, with the Arab world's reaction to its plight during the stoppage of the oil flow across Syria, Iraq seems to have turned its back on Arab problems for a time in order to mend its other fences.

Pictures from Taiz, page 9.

RISKS IN LEAVING ADEN 'VACUUM'

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

JERUSALEM, MARCH 15

Britain should not leave Aden while the Yemen war is still going on, Sir Alec Douglas-Home told Israel students today. "We should stay until the South Arabian Federation is armed with aircraft to defend itself", he said. "I am afraid a premature withdrawal from Aden without defence arrangements will bring a lot of instability to the area."

In a lecture at the Hebrew University Sir Alec said that two rules which had preserved stability in areas within pacts of collective security backed by free democracies were applicable to the Middle East. They were: "To create a vacuum of power is to invite aggression, and this must in no circumstances be done"; and "a bully who tries to overrun a small and independent country shall be halted in his tracks".

In citing Aden as an example Sir Alec apparently implied that the bully he was referring to was President Nasser, although he did not name him.

Arab League cuts off aid to Jordan Army.
FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Mar 16, 1967; pg. 6; Issue 56891.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS101805168

Egypt seeks guarantees from nuclear powers

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

GENEVA, MARCH 16

The price that the non-aligned countries intend to extract from the nuclear powers in return for their agreeing, under a non-dissemination treaty, not to make or acquire weapons was indicated at the Geneva disarmament conference today by Husain Khallaf, delegate of the United Arab Republic.

He said that if the proposed treaty was to exclude all loopholes it must incorporate compulsory world-wide inspection of installations by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

He regarded as basic the need for the treaty to contain a separate article which would make clear the binding responsibility of the nuclear powers to proceed with nuclear disarmament. Without this a treaty would be unfair, unbalanced, and would perpetuate a nuclear weapons monopoly.

The powers must also undertake not to threaten or to use their armaments against non-nuclear states.

Egypt seeks guarantees from nuclear powers.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Friday, Mar 17, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56892.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS84634737

ADEN SPEED-UP ON INDEPENDENCE

British proposal shocks S. Arabia Cabinet

A British plan to give the Federation of South Arabia independence at the beginning of November has shocked the Federal Government, which has rejected it.

Before he left Aden yesterday, Mr. George Thomson, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, made it clear at a press conference that the British Government had both the duty and the right to decide the independence date.

FROM NICHOLAS HERBERT—ADEN, MARCH 19

Britain has failed to secure South Arabian support for a plan to give the federation independence at the beginning of November this year.

Mr. George Thomson, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, left for Washington this morning after two days of fruitless attempts to get Federal Government backing for this startling acceleration of the programme.

It remains to be seen whether Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, will announce a unilaterally chosen date for independence when he speaks in the House of Commons debate tomorrow. The impression left by Mr. Thomson at a press conference this morning was that such a declaration was probable, and federal officials seemed to think it inevitable.

U.N. mission

They regard the British Government's evident haste as a deliberate attempt to sabotage the United Nations mission which is due to arrive here on April 1 to see how elections can be organized.

One view is that Britain was apprehensive lest the mission recommend a lengthy postponement of independence so that elections could be held before South Arabia was launched into the world. This would mean the maintenance of British forces in Aden for perhaps two years.

It is understood that all Mr. Thomson's persuasive reasoning, coupled with the offer of air support for several months after independence and generous military assistance, was not enough to win over the Federal Supreme Council.

The early independence date has come as a shock. Ministers had previously been led to believe that January 1 next year was the earliest possible date, and they had hopes of postponing that for a few weeks. They told Mr. Thomson that the Federal Army would not be ready to take over internal security in time for independence in November, and they complained that no assurances were given about the adherence of South Arabian states that are not members of the federation. The most important of these are the three states of the Hadhramaut.

Repression expected

The British were reported to be disappointed with last week's uncompromising statement by Abdullah al-Asnag, leader of the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (Flosy), who firmly rejected the idea of cooperating with the United Nations mission. However, Mr. Thomson's justification for bringing independence day forward was understood to have been based on the difficult problem of handing over internal security in Aden to the Federal Government.

The argument is that while Britain retains sovereignty Parliament would not tolerate the use of violently repressive police measures in which the High Commission believes federal troops would indulge Therefore, Britain is unwilling to remain in the picture once the Federal Government takes over.

Federal Ministers deny any intention of liquidating the opposition by force. They claim that their Army, with its British officers, could make a better job of security than British troops. Arab troops, they say, would have an instinctive knowledge of the situation and be better able to encourage informers among the population.

Mr. Thomson's offer to provide the Federal Army with air cover for several months after independence was welcomed so far as it went, particularly as the new South Arabian Air Force will have only four of its 12 Provost jet aircraft by the end of the year.

The defence forces may have plenty to do. Two battalions of South Arabians are beginning training near Taiz, where Flosy has its headquarters. Ahmad Said, director of the Voice of the Arabs radio station in Egypt, who is now in Yemen, has called on troops of the Federal Army to join the liberation forces. In Cairo, the Arab League has come out with open support for Flosy's terrorist activities in South Arabia, with only the Saudi Arabian delegate dissenting.

Anti-Saudi march

During an anti-Saudi demonstration in Aden today, four Arabs, including a child, were injured by a grenade thrown at British forces containing the procession, which was protesting against the public execution of 17 alleged Yemen saboteurs in Riyadh. The banned National Liberation Front has called for similar demonstrations tomorrow afternoon.

Two British airmen escaped earlier today when a grenade thrown at them failed to explode.

Mr. Thomson, at his press conference before he left, refused to be drawn on the details of discussions, but in reply to questions said: "We are under the obligation to seek the agreement of the Federal Government and the other people concerned in this problem on the date of independence if such agreement is achievable, but in the end the British Government has the duty and the right to decide the best date for independence taking all the circumstances into account."

He appealed for cooperation with the United Nations mission so as to overcome difficulties which, he said, were found whichever way the problem was looked at.

Picture, page 5.

Aden Speed-Up On Independence.
FROM NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Monday, Mar 20, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56894.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001588

Iraq and Iran to continue oil talks

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

TEHERAN, MARCH 19

President Arif of Iraq today ended a " highly successful " six-day state visit to Iran and flew back to Baghdad. A communiqué issued here tonight said the leaders of the two countries agreed that their good neighbourly ties would strengthen and promote peace and stability in the Middle East.

They agreed to continue negotiations for joint exploration of oil in the Naft Khaneh and Naft e Shah border regions, and to facilitate visits to shrines in Iraq by Iranian pilgrims.

Details of agreements on other issues, including navigation rights and collection of tolls in the Shatt al Arab, demarcation of the Persian Gulf continental shelf, and the status of Iranian nationals in Iraq will be worked out later by a joint committee.

A cultural and trade agreement will be concluded between the two countries within a month. President Arif has invited the Shah and Queen Farah to visit Iraq at a date yet to be arranged.

The communiqué added: " The two heads of state discussed the Palestine question, and not only considered it as an Arab problem but viewed it as a question which concerned all Muslim nations, as it has a direct bearing on the security and stability of the region. Both leaders declared their full support for the struggle of the people of Palestine in seeking their just rights as provided under the United Nations resolution ".

RUMANIAN CREDIT

Rumania is to extend a credit of £11m. to Iran under an economic cooperation agreement signed here at the weekend. It will be repaid within eight years

Iran will repay part of the credit by exports of crude oil, which will be handed over to the National Iranian Oil Company by the oil consortium for direct marketing in east Europe. Rumania and Iran also agreed on an oil deal involving the sale of 3,500,000 tons of Iranian crude oil over the next three years.

KING FAISAL MAKES OFFER TO EGYPT

AMMAN, March 19.—King Faisal of Saudi Arabia has offered President Nasser the possibility of ending, or limiting, the civil war which has raged in Yemen for more than four years.

He said he would stop helping the royalists in the civil war if President Nasser withdrew Egyptian troops from Yemen. King Faisal was speaking to Muslim leaders who have gathered in Mecca for the annual pilgrimage.—*Reuter.*

Iraq and Iran to continue oil talks.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Monday, Mar 20, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56894.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS85027956

SOUTHERN ARABIA

From Mr. William Yates

Sir,—Your leading article on Aden foresees the extension of the Yemen civil war to both South-West Arabia and Aden. This appears to be inevitable because of the present political rivalry between President Nasser's Nationalists established in Aden and the Yemen Republic on the one hand, and some of the federal rulers who are in sympathy with the Yemen Royalists and Saudi Arabia on the other.

The proposed United Nations mission to Aden and South Arabia might find a compromise, but the restraining influence of the U.S.S.R. on Egypt, and that of the United States on Saudi Arabia, will be essential to the success of the mission.

The crisis in Aden arises from the Conservative policy of Mr. Duncan Sandys, M.P., who deliberately forced the protesting colony of Aden into a federation, designed by Britain to give the Federal tribal rulers autocratic power over Aden. The agreed objective was for Britain to smash the Aden Nationalists as a political force before granting independence to the federation.

This policy is as vicious as it is strategically foolish because the paramount British interest in South-West Arabia is the security of Aden and the good will of the Adenis and Yemenis who work in the British oil refinery and in the greatest oil bunkering port in the world.

I suggest that Britain could regain the good will of Aden by allowing a General Election and the formation of an Aden State Government. Britain could then sign a Treaty of Independence with Aden State which would permit Aden to become the free port of the Federation but responsible for its own internal security.

With Britain's help the independent state of Aden would be able to come to terms as a confederate State with the federal rulers, and together they could later explore the possibilities of a greater Yemen free trade area.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM YATES.

The Old Rectory, Stirchley, Wellington, Shropshire, March 15.

Southern Arabia.
WILLIAM YATES

The Times (London, England),Monday, Mar 20, 1967; pg. 13; Issue 56894.

Category: Letters to the Editor

Gale Document Number:CS219245684

APPEAL FROM YEMEN FOR U.N. INQUIRY

30,000 SAID TO BE FIGHTING EGYPTIANS

FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT—ADEN, MARCH 24

The United Nations was asked today to send a committee to Yemen to help to eliminate foreign interference.

The request was made by a new group, the Yemen Revolutionary Front, whose existence was disclosed at a press conference organized by the South Arabian Federal Government here this morning.

Ali Ahmad al-Dhubah, who said he was a member of the Front's command council, told correspondents it had been created at a conference of 250 Yemenis in the central part of the country between March 3 and 8.

Modern weapons

Among other things, it decided to organize the existing resistance to the Egyptian presence, and a tribal army of 30,000 men under a single political leadership was now fighting a guerrilla war.

Known as the Yemen Liberation Army, it was armed with modern weapons taken from the Egyptians but it was too early to say what success it was having.

Politically, the new front appeared to stand behind Major-General Hassan al-Amri, the former Republican Prime Minister, whose detention in Cairo with several members of his Cabinet was denounced in one of the resolutions voted by the conference.

While al-Dhubah's fire aimed mainly at the Egyptians, another of the 16 resolutions blamed both Egypt and Saudi Arabia for the Yemen war and the consequent loss of life and property.

'Barbaric crimes'

He said, however, that the front had nothing to do with the so-called third force, a group run by the al-Wazir family, which has claimed in the past to represent an alternative to the royalist and republican factions. He said the conference had been attended by various tribal leaders, including representatives of the important Hashid and Bakil tribes, and by a number of disillusioned republican Army officers and officials.

In a petition addressed to U Thant, the United Nations Secretary-General, and to world opinion, the front chided the world organization for its passive attitude towards the Yemen war. "We request the United Nations Secretary-General to form a neutral committee to investigate the barbaric crimes committed by the Egyptians during the past years against the people of Yemen in order to eliminate them", the petition said.

The credentials of the new front are difficult ot assess, especially as al-Dhubah declined to name any other members.

Somali moves over Djibouti

MOGADISHU, SOMALIA, March 24.—Somalia has called on U Thant, the United Nations Secretary-General, the United Nations special committee on colonialism, and the Organization of African Unity to look into the troubled situation in French Somaliland after last Sunday's referendum there.

Some 6,000 Somalis have been deported from French Somaliland, and more than 4,000 detained before and after the referendum.

France says that many Somalis crossed the border from Somalia or were bribed by the Somalia Government to influence the poll against France. French troops are rounding up any Somalis who lack regular documents.—*Reuter.*

30,000 Said To Be Fighting Egyptians.
FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT-

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Mar 25, 1967; pg. 3; Issue 56898.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS51735673

Shots at officer's funeral in Aden

Europeans ordered off streets

FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT—ADEN, MARCH 26

The Federal Regular Army, which will have no British troops supporting it outside Aden after July 1, lost a valuable senior officer in a land mine accident this weekend.

The officer, Colonel Abdul Qawee Muhammad Yafai, who commanded the 1st Battalion, was returning to Dhala after inspecting positions near the Yemen border when his vehicle hit the mine. Two other soldiers were killed and three wounded.

There followed a bizarre incident in the troublesome Shaikh Othman district, after which all British Servicemen off duty have been confined to barracks and civilians advised to stay indoors.

The trouble occurred when the funeral procession of Colonel Yafai, consisting mostly of federal troops, was joined by hundreds of supporters of the National Liberation Front, carrying banners. Troops of the Royal Horse Artillery, coming to pay their last respects, stood back for the crowd and one British soldier, according to British authorities, discharged a shot. Men in the crowd opened fire, wounding three federal soldiers.

The order keeping Europeans off the streets said feelings were running high in the Federal Army and it appeared that the authorities feared a clash between the Army and the National Liberation Front. An inquiry has been opened into the incident. There has been tension in the past between British and federal troops, but British patrols remained on the streets last night.

Shortage of officers

At a time when the Federal Army is expanding from five to 10 battalions, Colonel Yafai will be particularly difficult to replace. There is already a crucial shortage not only of experienced officers but also of n.c.o.s, many of whom have been promoted into new battalions. The Army is absorbing a large part of the Federal Guard, whose duties were formerly confined to internal security, but some of the new units are still very raw.

This is why Brigadier J. B. Dye, the British commander of the Federal Regular Army, insists that his men will not be ready until October at the earliest to assume responsibility for internal security in Aden. It is understood that present plans call for a British base at Little Aden to be put under Federal Army control in September, after which Arab troops are to be gradually initiated into the cauldron of Aden itself. Inside Aden they will remain under the British security commander until sovereignty is relinquished on independence day, whenever that is.

At a press conference yesterday Brigadier William Dunbar, deputy security commander, said Egypt was inspiring, organizing, and equipping a modern war in South Arabia, one that had begun in the capital and spread outwards towards the borders. The Egyptians were preparing a way for installing a puppet government which could then invite help from the "liberation army" being formed in Yemen.

Brigadier Dunbar said this was reasonable military deduction given propaganda and statements made in Cairo and the presence of 400 trained liberation army men in Yemen.

Another possibility appears to be that the Army will become impatient with politicians and seek its own solution once British forces are gone.

Captain Anthony Bristow, intelligence officer, Aden Brigade, said the Egyptian intelligence service was running terrorism in Aden. The Egyptians had links with N.L.F., Flosy, dissident elements outside Aden, and the Liberation Army. Their organization with the cumbersome title of People's Organization of Revolutionary Forces of Flosy (Porff), however, failed to unite all terrorists because many N.L.F. members would not accept the titular leadership of men like Abdullah al-Asnag and Abdul Qawee Mackawee.

These men ran Flosy's political activities but Porff received orders direct from the Egyptian intelligence service. It had nine well-trained, well-equipped units which were independent. The leader of Porff had been identified as Abdullah Magali, a former N.L.F. member, who used to be a labourer in Aden.

Captain Bristow said there were now perhaps 15 or 20 men trained in Cairo or Hodeida in Yemen in the arts of assassination, sabotage, the use of explosives and mortar fire. Locally recruited terrorists received a more rudimentary training in the use of grenades and pistols, while a large pool of men of all ages yielded to the temptation of earning £5 by throwing a grenade.

ADEN, March 26.—A British patrol of Royal Marine Commanda men ambushed a party of dissident tribesmen, killing one and capturing a quantity of arms and ammunition, last night.

An officer also said today a grenade had been exploded harmlessly outside the house of the British political officer at midnight in Dhala, 90 miles north of here.—*Reuter.*

EGYPTIAN SUPPORT FOR FLOSY

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

CAIRO, MARCH 26

Muhammad Riad, the Foreign Minister of the United Arab Republic, today told the United Nations mission on Aden that Britain should negotiate with the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (Flosy) on Southern Arabia, and expressed the U.A.R.'s full support for Flosy, according to the Middle East News Agency.

Abdul Qawee Mackawee, the secretary general of Flosy, had earlier said that neither he nor any of his colleagues would confer with the mission unless Flosy was officially recognized as the sole representative of the people of South Arabia. Yesterday he told reporters he might meet the mission informally only if they wished to offer condolences on the death of his sons.

Scores of South Arabian students last night demonstrated at Cairo Airport against the mission's visit.

Shots at officer's funeral in Aden.
FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Monday, Mar 27, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56899.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67333243

U.S. COURT INTERVENES IN RAIL MERGER

Largest in history, says judge

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT—WASHINGTON, MARCH 27

The United States Supreme Court today ordered the Inter-State Commerce Commission to take a second look at the merger it approved last year between the New York Central and the Pennsylvania railway companies.

The Court was divided five to four. The judges were evidently reluctant to appear to set an obstacle in the path of rationalizing the ailing railway system to make it competitive with road and air transport, which is the United States' declared national policy.

Justice Tom Clark, reading the majority opinion, said: "After all, it is the largest railroad merger in history and if not handled properly could seriously disrupt and irreparably injure the entire railroad system in the north-east section of the country, to the great detriment . . . to public convenience and necessity of the entire nation."

The merger, by uniting a system handling an eighth of all the United States railway freight traffic, would save an estimated $81m. (£29m.) a year after completion.

It has, however, been opposed by a number of smaller railway companies, who fear that the merger of these two giant companies, which have managed by re-organization over recent years to make profits again, would "skim" the trade.

'Public in dark'

Several local communities also challenged the merger in lower courts, pointing to the two companies' publicly announced intention to trim away the railway system "unencumbered by service obligations no longer responsive to public needs".

The Supreme Court, in effect, told the Inter-State Commerce Commission that it had not made sufficiently sure of the interests of the lesser companies in surviving.

Justice William Douglas, while siding with the majority opinion, went farther. He complained that the commission had adopted a "hands-off" approach to what he said threatened to become a railway cartel, with the public in the dark as to what financial interests were behind the merger.

Visit to Cairo by British M.P.s

A British parliamentary delegation leaves London for Cairo today on a visit arranged by the London office of the Arab League.

One of the members, Mr. Carol Johnson (Lab., Lewisham) said: "We are hoping we shall be received by President Nasser, and we shall stress just what our feelings are about the situation in Aden".

The party, which also includes Mr. Christopher Mayhew (Lab., Woolwich), Lord Gladwyn, deputy Liberal leader in the Lords, Mr. Evelyn King (C., South Dorset), and Mr. J. H. Cordle (C., Bournemouth and Christchurch), will go on from Egypt to Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and, it is hoped, Saudi Arabia. They return on April 10.

U.N. MISSION'S TALKS

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

CAIRO, MARCH 27

The three members of the United Nations mission on Aden, which arrived here on Saturday, were asked today by Abdul Khalik Hassouna, the Arab League secretary-general, to urge Britain to change her policy in South Arabia and release political detainees there. Mr. Hassouna made it clear at the meeting that he regarded the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (Flosy) as the legitimate representative of the people in South Arabia.

MR. GROMYKO'S VISIT

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

CAIRO, MARCH 27

Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, will arrive here on March 29 for an official visit to the United Arab Republic during which he will have talks with Mr. Mahmoud Riad, the Foreign Minister, and other officials.

Police hurt in riot at pop concert

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, MARCH 27

Five policemen were injured last night when 2,000 youngsters were kept out of a rock and roll concert in Winterland Arena, San Francisco. The arena closed doors when filled to its capacity of 5,200. Several hundred disappointed patrons broke down the doors, and it took more than 100 policemen nearly an hour to control the riot and four hours to clear the area.

One youth threw a traffic sign at a policeman and another kicked a fallen policeman in the face. A petrol bomb was thrown from a window and hit a television camera. The show went on, but finished three-quarters of an hour early.

Earlier in the day it took the police three hours to clear a "mill-in" at the intersection of Haight and Asbury streets, celebrated as the chief resort of the bearded and sandalled "*hippies*" who travel to San Francisco from all over the United States to signify their dissent from modern society.

The "be-in" in Central Park, New York, swelled to about 10,000 before nightfall, with increasingly bizarre trimmings. Girls had "love" spelt out in lipstick on their foreheads, and several men went bare-chested and barefoot, some with Vedic symbols scrawled on their midriffs, in sunny but cool weather. There was some excitement, but no trouble, and the police were good-humoured. The "love-in" in Elysian Park, Los Angeles, was equally odd but caused no more than a traffic jam.

Kennedy case man claims attack

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY MORNING

An American lawyer, who says he has documents that "tend to prove, or in some cases do prove", that persons other than Lee Harvey Oswald killed the President, claimed in a North Dakota hospital that he had been the victim of an attack as he was driving yesterday along the road with the documents. However, after a district court judge, who is now trying the lawyer in connexion with an alleged insurance company fraud, had heard this story, he ordered the man committed for 45 days for a mental examination.

The lawyer, Mr. David Kroman, aged 43, was taken to hospital after being found in a car outside Bismarck, the state capital, with a loaded shotgun across his knees and partially paralysed. He was travelling from Minnesota to Bismarck, where he is on trial with four others in connexion with the alleged fraud. He denied the attack might be connected with his trial.

He said he had been in touch with Mr. Jim Garrison, the New Orleans District Attorney, and promised he would reveal the name of the President's killer within the next few days.

The judge in New Orleans who will conduct the trial of Clay Shaw, accused of taking part in a plot to assassinate President Kennedy, today advised Mr. Jim Garrison, the District Attorney, and defence counsel to refrain from making any further public statements about evidence for or against the accused.

U.S. Court Intervenes In Rail Merger.
FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Mar 28, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56900.

Category: Law

Gale Document Number:CS68906108

EX-QUEEN TREATED FOR OVERDOSE

CAIRO, March 29.—Ex-Queen Narriman of Egypt, former wife of the late King Farouk, left hospital today after doctors had given her urgent treatment for an overdose of sleeping pills.—*Reuter.*

News in Brief.
The Times (London, England),Thursday, Mar 30, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56902.

Category: News in Brief

Gale Document Number:CS17788030

Independence tempts Hadhrami sultan

British urge link with S. Arabia

From NICHOLAS HERBERT—Mukalla, Qaiti State, March 29

Sultan Ghalib bin Awadh al-Qaiti, who at 19 is ruler of South Arabia's largest state, has summoned tribal and political leaders to a conference a week from today to help him to decide the future of Qaiti.

If the meeting, which will be held in the sultan's ornate green and white palace here, were successful it might well decide the vexed question of whether the huge Eastern Aden Protectorate will join the South Arabian Federation, but such an outcome would probably be too good to be true.

Qaiti is politically and geographically the most important of the three Hadhramaut states, and it is quite possible that Kathiri and Mahra would follow suit if Qaiti opted for membership of the federation.

Traditional rivalry

The Sultan himself recognizes that while time is short Arab negotiations tend to be long, especially when they must cut across traditional rivalry between tribesmen and town dwellers. Nor is it by any means certain that if a consensus were achieved it would be in favour of joining the federation, which many Hadhramis regard with distaste.

From the imposing black and white British Residency across the road, with its imperial pictures and peeling whitewash, British advisers have been urging on the young sultan the folly of endangering Qaiti's security by remaining aloof and forfeiting the financial aid Britain is prepared to give only to federated states.

They point out that the Hadhrami Beduin Legion, a force raised by Britain in the three states, is at present paid by Britain. The Royal Air Force now, and possibly an expanded South Arabian Air Force in the future, provide valuable air cover. Relaxation of this grip would, they predict, not only result in the resurgence of tribal anarchy but expose Hadhramaut to foreign interference.

Customs dues

The Hadhramis, who are more cosmopolitan than their federal counterparts, have a considerable income from expatriates, while Qaiti and Kathiri levy important customs duties.

The Federal Government at Al Ittihad, 10 miles from Aden, would like Britain to annul these customs dues and offer the central Government money to compensate Qaiti and Kathiri as an inducement to join. They claim that a request made 12 months ago in this sense has remained unanswered. Until they know if money would be forthcoming, they say, they can hardly approach the Eastern Aden Protectorate.

They have been alarmed by recent manifestations of socialism or pro-Egyptian sentiments in Mukalla and a few other towns—these they see as a further threat to their security, as a hostile border on all sides would vastly complicate life.

Others are critical of the federation's laissez faire attitude, but meanwhile time races by and no decision has been taken. This may not be entirely unstudied, at least on the part of Sultan Ghalib, who admits to socialist leanings and whose only Minister is at present in Cairo. Ostensibly he is having medical treatment, but apparently he may sound out the Arab League on the Hadhramaut problem.

The Sultan appears tempted by the idea of independence for the Hadhramaut as a unit on its own; and there are signs that he is ready to exploit the feud between Egypt and Saudi Arabia. It can probably be taken for granted that if King Faisal thought President Nasser or someone like him were about to get established in Mukalla he would be ready to spend money to prevent it.

Many here feel that, with Saudi assistance, the Hadhramaut could continue to exist on its own, though it is hardly equipped for all the implications of international statehood.

How keen President Nasser would be to establish himself or his influence in the Hadhramaut is a matter for conjecture, but his picture can be seen in coffee shops and taxis, and there are two parties giving allegiance to Egyptian causes. These are the Popular Democratic Front and the National Union of Popular Forces.

Unwieldy prospect

Their claims are larger than their accomplishments so far, but they promise to greet the United Nations mission with strikes and demonstrations. Each has been offered 10 seats at the Sultan's conference, to which 10 tribesmen, 10 trades unionists and 19 provincial representatives have also been asked.

This is an unwieldy prospect, but if the Sultan can captain them as successfully as his cricket team, which recently defeated R.A.F. Riyan by three runs, he may yet produce surprises.

Mr. Gromyko meets President Nasser

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

CAIRO, MARCH 29

Mr. Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, who arrived in Cairo today, said at the airport that he was looking forward to an exchange of views with United Arab Republic officials on questions of importance to both countries.

The British parliamentary delegation, including Mr. Christopher Mayhew, a former Navy Minister, and Lord Gladwyn, former British delegate at the United Nations, arrived here last night for a four-day visit, during which they will discuss Anglo-Egyptian relations.

CAIRO, March 29.—President Nasser tonight received Mr. Gromyko. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Mahmoud Riad, the United Arab Republic Foreign Minister, and Mr. Dmitri Pojidaev, Soviet Ambassador in Cairo.—*Reuter.*

Independence tempts Hadhrami sultan.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Mar 30, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56902.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS84110462

Hotel as bastion for Aden mission

Safeguards against terrorism

FROM NICHOLAS HERBERT—ADEN, MARCH 30

The United Nations special mission on Aden announced today that it wished to hear the views of the people to help it make recommendations on the country's future.

A statement to this effect was issued by the advance party which flew from Jiddah overnight to make administrative and security preparations for the mission's arrival in the early hours of Sunday.

There has been no response so far to Britain's renewed plea to give up terrorism for talks and the mission seems likely to witness more than the written or oral statements it invited this morning.

To look at a peaceful crowd watching a football match outside the hotel this evening one would not suspect it, but there are signs of impending trouble. On their arrival, therefore, the mission's members will be taken by helicopter to the security of the Seaview Hotel, which has been requisitioned by the authorities under the emergency regulations and turned into a heavily defended bastion.

Food stockpiling

If this is an unlikely setting in which to feel the popular pulse, it speaks volumes about the plight of Aden a few months before independence. At any rate housewives have been stockpiling food, curfew passes are in preparation and everyone is getting ready to batten down the hatches.

Mr. M. A. Riedel, the mission's administrative and finance officer, this morning conferred with Sir Richard Turnbull, the High Commissioner, on routine arrangements, but officials insisted that he had been unable to answer their questions on how long the mission wanted to stay or where it wanted to go. Nor has the mission itself, which is now in Jiddah for talks with the Saudi Arabia Government, revealed its intentions.

Abdul Rahman Girgrah, the Federal Minister for Information and National Guidance, has, however, left for Jiddah; from there it is assumed he will make contact with the mission. It is understood that Middle East Airlines, on whose service the mission was expected to arrive, has now cancelled its weekend flight, but presumably the United Nations can make other arrangements, in spite of evident lack of funds. The exact time of the mission's arrival is therefore as unclear as everything else, to the confusion of the public and the bewilderment of 50 or 60 correspondents, commentators and photographers who have descended on Aden in the past few weeks.

Role of Russia

The terrorists are doubtless equally confused, although, if advance statements are to be believed, they do not regard the mission as a target in itself. Both the National Liberation Front and the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen have ordered strikes and demonstrations to show the mission the situation, and Flosy promises increased attacks on the British. If there is any disposition to change course at the last minute there has been scarcely any evidence.

It would probably take a *deus ex machina* of the stature of Mr. Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, to arrange any alteration in the scenario at this late stage, and his arrival in Cairo could therefore have the highest significance.

Nothing is known about the subject of his talks with the Egyptian Government, but the Soviet Union is already financing the expensive Yemen war and could conceivably wish to restrain President Nasser. Talk in Cairo of a round-table conference might have significance too, in spite of Flosy's initial disapproval.

Abdullah al Asnag, Flosy's political leader, issued an obscurely worded statement a week ago to the effect that Flosy knew its responsibilities towards the well-being of South Arabia and knew best what was good for the country, a fact which, he said, Britain and the Federation must accept without much waste of time. Whether this hinted at some change in policy is not clear, but the author appended a covering note saying that it was important.

These are straws from which it would be rash to try to make bricks, but they do povide optimists with something to cling to in an otherwise depressing outlook. If the mission could weave from them some compromise it would greatly exceed its reputation, but it is likely to take time in any case.

The United Nations resolution setting it up said that it should recommend practical steps for full implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, and in particular determine the extent of United Nations participation in the preparation and supervision of the elections. The mission is charged with reporting as soon as possible to the Secretary-General.

MR. GROMYKO HAS TALKS IN CAIRO

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

CAIRO, MARCH 30

Mr. Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, who is on a three-day visit to the United Arab Republic, today conferred with his Egyptian counterpart, Mahmoud Riad, for one hour. It is understood that they discussed the latest developments in the world situation, with particular emphasis on the disarmament issue.

Earlier, a British parliamentary delegation met Dr. Mahmoud Fawzy, the United Arab Republic's Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs. The delegation, led by the former Minister of Defence (Navy), Mr. Christopher Mayhew, and including Lord Gladwyn, had arrived here on Tuesday at the invitation of the Arab League.

Mr. Mayhew told reporters on arrival that the mission, which is representative of all three political parties, would discuss with officials here the Aden question and Anglo-U.A.R. relations. Reliable sources said the talks would also deal with the Rhodesian problem, which caused severance of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Britain in December, 1965.

The British mission is due to leave for Luxor tomorrow to visit ancient Egyptian monuments. It will leave Cairo for Amman on Saturday.

F.A.O. chief praises Pope's message

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

ROME, MARCH 30

Dr. B. R. Sen, director general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, said today that the Pope's encyclical letter *Populorum Progressio* (the Development of Peoples) was of "momentous significance", especially for the problem of birth control.

The message, published on Tuesday, "will provide tremendous impetus to our efforts to overcome the shameful evil of hunger in the world", Dr. Sen said. It lent the moral authority and leadership of the Catholic church to the practical measures in which the F.A.O. were involved and were planning to undertake in the future.

BRAZIL EDITOR FACES CRIMINAL CHARGE

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 30.—The Brazilian Minister of Justice today ordered criminal proceedings to be taken against Senhor Helio Fernandes, editor of the evening newspaper *Tribuna da Imprensa*, for campaigning against the Government while banned from engaging in political activity.

The Minister asked that Fernandes—who criticized the outgoing Castello Branco regime—should stand trial for infringing revolutionary legislation under an Act outlawing any political activity by those deprived of their political rights. The measure stipulates a prison sentence of from three months to a year.—*Reuter.*



A cat being prepared for a compulsory move in Aden. It was to accompany one of the British service families who had to move out of flats within a tightly guarded area, around the hotel where quarters have been prepared for the United Nations mission.

Doubts on role of police in Calcutta

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

CALCUTTA, March 30

Details available today showed that yesterday's rioting in Calcutta took a heavier toll than was reported by police and hospital authorities last night. At least 11 people are now known to have been killed and about 100 injured, 40 of them seriously.

The city was quiet today, but the curfew will remain in force for a few nights in the areas affected. Further trouble between Sikhs and Hindus seems unlikely.

The new coalition government in West Bengal is doing its best to restore communal harmony which, it suspects, was broken at the instigation of the Congress Party and its supporters. But it may now have to revise its views on the role of the police in maintaining law and order.

LEGAL AGITATION

In the early stages of yesterday's trouble the police took no action, perhaps fearing that intervention would be disapproved by their political masters. Just before taking office the united front of predominantly leftist parties which has formed the new government declared that it would not let the police interfere with "democratic" struggles. Later statements by leftist ministers have been interpreted to mean that almost all forms of agitation are "legitimate".

The new government's attitude to labour agitation has lent specific support to this interpretation.

JUDGE'S ORDER IN MILK DISPUTE

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, MARCH 30

A Federal judge in Des Moines, Iowa, today granted a temporary restraining order forbidding members of the National Farmers' Organization from "threatening, intimidating, harassing or engaging in acts of violence against" non-members to cut off milk supplies in interstate commerce.

The Department of Justice brought a civil anti-trust suit. The judge said his order did not prevent the N.F.O. from withholding their own milk supplies, which they have been doing since March 15 in an attempt to force up the price.

HOPE OF ENDING FRENCH SHIPYARD STRIKE

Dispute over disparity of wages

FROM PETER STRAFFORD—ST. NAZAIRE, MARCH 30

The tall cranes of the Chantiers de l'Atlantique, the largest shipyard in France and one of the largest in Europe, are standing idle against the skyline here today. No work has been done in the yard for nearly a fortnight, as a result of a wages dispute.

Workers met early today outside the closed gates, as they have done each morning, and later left by coach for Nantes, some 40 miles away, for a big demonstration together with workers from the Nantes area.

St. Nazaire is a town with a history of stubborn and sometimes violent labour disputes.

The unions take pride in having a membership that is well above the national average, and the almost daily marches through the town have been well organized and disciplined. The police, careful to avoid incidents, have in the main kept out of the way.

The dispute is one of several which have broken out in different parts of France in the past month or so, and which, without being politically inspired, have been calculated to take full advantage of the defensive position of the Government before and after the elections. It is one of the most delicate, however, because of the explosiveness of the St. Nazaire labour scene.

Japanese competition

The stoppage resulted from a claim by the monthly paid workers that the gap between wages in Paris and those in St. Nazaire had widened in recent years. But underlying it are the tensions and difficulties created by the need for the French shipbuilding industry to modernize itself in the face of international competition, particularly from Japan.

"We are given more responsibilities without any more pay", I have been told. "The motto of the management", a union official said, "is 'get on with your work, and shut up'." There are complaints that the unions have been trying to open talks with the management for more than a year without success.

What has happened in the process of modernization is that technicians, who in the past were qualified to do just one operation, such as carpentry or welding, are now required to do several. There is more prefabrication of parts, which are transported whole from the workshop to the shipyard, and this demands much ing has been arranged between the various managements of St. Nazaire and the unions. There appears to be hope on both sides that a solution is imminent.

Both sides are, in fact, anxious to bring the dispute to an end. The unions think of the monthly paid workers who have now been on strike for four weeks, and the management of the Chantiers de l'Atlantique has to consider both its improved programme and the orders it has in hand. One oil tanker has been left unfinished in the yard.

The dispute has already lasted since March 1, when the monthly paid workers, usually the last to stop work, began an unlimited strike in all the metal working industries of St. Nazaire, in support of a claim for an 8 per cent wage increase. These workers have primarily office jobs, and though they are paid little more on average that the hourly paid workers, they represent a different social group.

They are a minority and the firms affected, which, apart from the Chantiers de l'Atlantique, include one factory of Sud Aviation, were able to continue work for a time.

£7m. investments

On March 20, however, the situation was aggravated by the decision of the Chantiers de l'Atlantique to close its doors, and so put all its employees out of work. The shipyard is far the biggest firm in St. Nazaire, dominating its economy, and this move enlarged the struggle to one between the management and the workers as a whole.

One cannot say that the workers of St. Nazaire are desperate men. The town is almost entirely modern, having been rebuilt since the war, and is full of well stocked shops. The workers are well dressed, and speak with the calm and confidence of men who are well above the bread line.

There is also an evident pride in the shipyard. The management is in the process of investing some 100m. francs (more than £7m.) in improvements, including the enlargement of one of the docks so as to be able to build the huge oil tankers of the future. The workers, who now stand aimlessly round the union offices, are very ready to explain what is being done.

The dispute is no less serious for this, and the unions have made preparations for a long struggle if no acceptable concessions are forthcoming from the management. Emissaries have gone out to different parts of France to collect support money, and there are plans to extend the movement

Hotel as bastion for Aden mission.
FROM NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Friday, Mar 31, 1967; pg. 6; Issue 56903.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS100887679

Troops find big arms cache in Aden

Army ready to check violence during U.N. visit

From NICHOLAS HERBERT—ADEN, MARCH 31

British troops, ready for instant deployment in the event of violence on the arrival of the United Nations mission to Aden, today discovered a large cache of arms and ammunition belonging to a terrorist group.

The weapons included American and Egyptian mortar bombs, Russian and British ammunition, a Belgian rocket launcher, and some Czechoslovak mines.

They were found by a patrol of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Anglian Regiment, in a house in the Shaikh Othman area after a tip-off. Middle East Command said it was the second largest arms find in Aden, and the terrorist aims of the National Liberation Front would be hampered during the coming weekend

This did not mean there would not be other attacks, and 2,500 troops were standing by, faced with a big job during the mission's stay. The men had been instructed to use the minimum of force to maintain law and order, so that the mission could move freely and see whoever it wished.

Rules on shooting

The Army spokesman said that each of the men had been issued with a card, setting down the circumstances in which it was permissible to fire. These were: in defence of their own lives; in defence of public property when this was the only way to defend it; if it was the only way to prevent the committal of a serious crime; and if it was the only way to disperse a hostile crowd after due warning had been given.

Following the precedent set in February, British troops are expected to be used from the start in an attempt to nip any disturbances in the bud.

Terrorists have shown no hesitation, according to Middle East Command, in using crowds as cover, or as means of luring forces into exposed positions. Demonstrations are therefore banned under the emergency regulations, although Sir Richard Turnbull, the High Commissioner, is ready to entertain requests for permission to stage peaceful marches.

Party attacks Egypt

Both the N.L.F. and Flosy (Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen) have called for strikes and demonstrations when the United Nations mission arrives, but so far no one knows exactly when that will be. Cancellation of the Middle East Airlines flight on which the members were expected to arrive from Jiddah early on Sunday morning has thrown the mission on its own resources and made it easier to conceal its arrival time on security grounds.

The United National Party, which claims to represent the views of the majority of people born in Aden, has given the United Nations mission a lengthy document criticizing Britain's record in the area, attacking Egyptian threats, asking for United Nations protection for South Arabia, supporting the United Nations resolutions, and proposing a conference of all interested parties, including the N.L.F. and Flosy.

Two Arabs were shot dead in Shaikh Othman this morning by unknown gunmen in separate incidents. Some grenades were also thrown, but they caused no damage or casualties.

Picture, page 17.

NAVY CHECKS ON TANKER OFF BEIRA

BY OUR NAVAL CORRESPONDENT

H.M.S. Nubian, 2,300 tons, one of the two British frigates on patrol in the Mozambique channel to prevent oil being shipped to Rhodesia via Beira, intercepted the 11,886-ton Liberian tanker Pistris outside Mozambique territorial waters on Tuesday, it was confirmed in London yesterday.

The captain of the Nubian was told by the tanker that the cargo of 17,000 tons of fuel was for use in Mozambique. The frigates kept company with the Pistris while a radio message was sent to Whitehall. After the reply was received the Pistris was allowed to go on her way, after an exchange of courtesies. No boarding party was sent to the tanker.

The Ministry of Defence said it was the practice of the ships on patrol off Beira to allow passage for oil destined for Mozambique.

Rhodesia sets up detainees' tribunal, page 17.

TWO CAR SAFETY RULES START TODAY

Officially approved safety belts are compulsory fittings on the front seats of all new cars and light commercial vehicles sold in Britain from today. At the same time annual tests become necessary for all three-year-old cars.

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Troops find big arms cache in Aden.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT-

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Apr 01, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56904.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS18181249

GUIDE TO UNITED NATIONS MISSION ON ADEN

VISIT UNDER THE SHADOW OF DISORDER

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The term "South Arabia" comprises the Colony of Aden and the Protectorate of South Arabia. Six teen of the 20 states of the Protectorate together with Aden form the political unit known as the Federation of South Arabia; capital, Al Ittihad. The other four states remain unfederated.

THE TERRITORY.—(1) Aden. Area 75 sq. mls. (excluding Kamaran, Perim and the Kuria Muria Islands, separately administered by the High Commissioner). Population, 230,000 (1964 estimate) including 90,000 immigrants from Yemen, but with prosperous urban living standards derived from the port, entrepôt trade, oil refinery and—largely—the British base now to be withdrawn.

(2) **The Protectorate.**—Area, 112,000 sq. miles. Population, one million (1964 estimate); extremely poor mountainous country, divided formerly into the Western and Eastern Aden Protectorates. The rulers adopted their own constitutions, some extremely primitive.

HISTORY.—Whole area, including both South Arabia and Yemen, was part of Turkish empire up to seventeenth century, when Yemen Arabs asserted independence. Early next century, Sultanate of Lahej (including Aden) won independence from Yemen.

1839. After an act of piracy with apparent connivance of Lahej, East India Company occupied Aden. Treaties of protection made later with the neighbouring rulers.

1934. British-Yemen agreement to accept status quo; intermittent border incidents; delimitation of frontier never completed.

CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1) Aden. In 1937 constituted a Crown Colony.

1947-1960.—Executive and Legislative Councils set up with elected majorities. Political parties rudimentary—main role played by Aden Trades Union Congress (A.T.U.C.) led by Abdullah al Asnag, with 14,000 members, mainly immigrant Yemen labourers supported by Egypt. Elections boycotted; frequent strikes; demand for immediate independence.

(2) The Protectorate. In 1937 formally constituted out of protected states which receive British subsidies. Governor of Aden became also Governor of Protectorate.

1959.—Six states combined to form a federation; Britain aiming to assist federation towards independence. Eleven other states have since adhered.

Federal constitution: Supreme Council of Ministers (mainly the Rulers) with a rotating chairman; Legislative Federal Council (mainly chosen by the Rulers).

Aden—Federation negotiations.—It was always hoped that Aden would join federation in spite of much higher standard of living.

August 16, 1962. Ministers of Federal and Aden Governments agreed that for reasons of race, religion, communications and economics Aden and federation "belong essentially together".

January 18, 1963. Aden acceded to federation (but A.T.U.C. opposed accession).

Negotiations on Independence. — On December 11, 1963, United Nations recommended independence and removal of British base. Britain did not agree.

Summer, 1964. London conference. Agreed South Arabia should have independence not later than 1968.

Spring and Summer, 1965. Failure of efforts to bring federal and Aden representatives together in constitutional conference.

September 25, 1965. Mounting terrorism, which Aden Ministers refused to denounce. Parts of Aden constitution suspended by High Commissioner. Former Chief Minister Abdul Qawee Mackawee went into voluntary exile to Cairo.

December 12, 1966. United Nations with British support approves appointment of mission to advise on transition of South Arabia to independence; United Nations role in supervising elections; and establishment of caretaker government to hold elections.

End February 1967. Terrorism persistently increasing with Egyptian backing. Federal Ministers visit London. Reported seeking new defence agreement and refusing cooperation without it.

Strong attacks on British Government by Mr. Duncan Sandys, former Commonwealth Secretary, on ground that President Nasser's aim is breakdown in Aden to enable pro-Egyptians to seize power and invite in Egyptian troops when British leave—with prospect of protracted war with tribes in Protectorate on Yemen pattern.

March 10. British Defence Ministry reported considering agreement to leave British troops in Aden for limited period after independence.

March 17. Mr. George Thomson, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, visits Aden. Federal Government reported to have refused plan for independence in November.

March 20. United Nations Mission—Dr. Perez Guerrero (Venezula), chairman, Mr. Abdul Satar Shalizi (Afghanistan) and Mr. Moussa Leo Keita (Mali)—leave for London, Cairo, and Jiddah on way to Aden.

March 26. Mahmoud Riad, United Arab Republic Foreign Minister, tells United Nations mission that Britain should negotiate only with U.A.R.-backed Opposition.

Preparations in Aden for general strike to show power of Opposition (or effectiveness of terrorism), on arrival of mission.

March 29. Mr. Gromyko, Soviet Foreign Minister, arrives in Cairo at short notice. Thought to be advising U.A.R. Government to moderate its attitude lest Britain conclude continuing defence arrangements.

MAIN PARTIES.—1. Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (Flosy).—Based in Cairo. Aim, progressive socialist (Arab-type) government for the whole of South Arabia, displacing the rulers. Leaders, Abdullah al Asnag and Abdul Qawee Mackawee. Terrorist activities now believed to be separately organized with help of Egyptian intelligence officers by People's Organization of Revolutionary Forces of Flosy (Porff), but earlier National Liberation Front terrorist organization has not wholly been absorbed.

2. United National Party (U.N.P.).—Based on Aden. Aim, independence for South Arabia under federal government with continued British support. Leader, Abdul Rahman Girgirah.

3. South Arabian League (Sal).—Based on Aden with some influence in Protectorate. Originally under U.A.R. influence; now looks to Saudi Arabia. Leader, Muhammad Ali al Jifri.

Visit Under The Shadow Of Disorder.
BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Monday, Apr 03, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56905.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68119683

Mr. Brown confers on Aden task

Lord Shackleton may fly out early this week

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Mr. Brown, the Foreign Secretary, conferred at the Foreign Office yesterday afternoon with Lord Shackleton, Minister without Portfolio, who is being sent to Aden to assess the situation in South Arabia after the sudden withdrawal on Friday of the United Nations mission.

Lord Shackleton hopes to fly to Aden tomorrow or on Wednesday. Mr. Brown, it is expected, will make a statement on Aden in the Commons today.

Among senior officials present at the Foreign Office talk was Mr. Peter Hope, Minister in the British delegation to the United Nations, who accompanied the mission to Aden and who flew back on Saturday to report.

There were several indications yesterday that if the mission had not flounced out of Aden so precipitately the row over the refusal of the federal Government to allow the disputed television broadcast would soon have been settled.

Differences discounted

Mr. Brown, it is understood, is not likely in his statement today to be critical of the British authorities on the spot, and a Foreign Office spokesman lost no time on Saturday night in denying reports that Sir Richard Turnbull, the High Commissioner in Aden, was considering resigning.

"It is clear", he said, "from a message received from Sir Richard Turnbull that he is looking forward to working with Lord Shackleton."

What was not forthcoming yesterday at the Foreign Office was any categorical denial that there had been differences for some time over policy between the British Government and the men on the spot. It would be extraordinary if there had not been some differences.

Basically, the policy decisions have concerned the concessions which might be made to the leaders of the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (Flosy) and, conversely, the pressure which should be applied to the federal ministers in order to achieve some form of coalition government on the transfer of power by Britain.

To the British authorities in Aden the fact that the federal ministers have been cooperating with them in face of constant threats and without a promise of continuing protection after the transfer of power is bound to have carried much weight. The leaders of Flosy, having quit the federation of their own accord, have meanwhile been reaping the benefit of terrorism with the full support of Egypt.

The claim of Flosy leaders to be the sole representatives of South Arabia cut some ice with the members of the United Nations Committee of 24 (on colonialism), but little with the British authorities in the federation itself.

Minister's task

In any event, Lord Shackleton's task will not be to search over decisions taken in the past so much as to consider policy in the future and, more particularly, to supervise arrangements for a fresh visit, if any, by the United Nation's mission to Aden, and to advise on the measures necessary to keep order there.

He will not be a Resident Minister in the formal sense, as it is open to him to return to London at any time to report.

There was still no reply yesterday to Mr. Brown's invitation to the mission to come to London to discuss the reasons for its withdrawal and, more generally, the situation in Aden after it.

Lord Shackleton's staff were appointed yesterday. His chief adviser will be Mr. Samuel Falle, a distinguished Arabist, who has been recalled urgently from his post as Deputy High Commissioner in Malaysia.

Mr. Falle joined the diplomatic service after a distinguished wartime career in the Royal Navy. He has served in diplomatic posts in Iran, Lebanon, and Iraq and was head of the United Nations (Political) Department at the Foreign Office from February, 1963, until this year.

Mr. Brown confers on Aden task.
BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Monday, Apr 10, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56911.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67333258

MR BROWN TRIES AGAIN

The emergency debate on Aden yesterday, arranged as a matter of urgency, produced more party rancour than constructive ideas. MR. BROWN, in refusing to tell the House what the situation is lest he should " mess up consultations now going on ", indicated at least that he was still trying. The United Nations mission has agreed to see him, but it is unlikely to be of any help. Indeed its intervention has added to the Government's difficulties by enabling Flosy—the Front for the Liberation of South Yemen—to claim that it has shown that it alone has the popular support to provide a successor government to British authority. In fact, the collapse of the mission's visit proved no such thing. It showed that terrorist organizations, even when at odds, could make fact-finding —let alone mediation—impossible.

The mission, like the terrorism which takes its inspiration from Egypt and accords with Egyptian policy, has changed the situation for which British policy was framed in the past. The Conservative plan and timetable for South Arabia cannot bind its successor —not because that plan and timetable were misjudged then but because they may not fit the bill as it is now. MR. BROWN sees this. He repeated, however, that the policy was " orderly withdrawal of our military forces and establishment of an independent South Arabia at the earliest date ".

If the withdrawal is to be orderly, and the successor government is to be independent—independent of Britain and of Cairo—1968 may now not be the earliest date. This is the nettle to be grasped. Since the Government earlier raised the possibility of withdrawal next November if peace and cooperation could be won, it is fair to assume that the plan was to leave in the new year. Even the old timetable gives MR. BROWN some eleven months' grace. But an orderly withdrawal leaving behind it a stable administration may now take longer.

The hope of bringing together the Adeni parties (whether Flosy alone or all of them) with the federal Government and representatives of the Hadramaut on a basis of equality is now remote. To achieve it even ultimately will require an early defeat of terrorism. This is a dubious prospect. Meanwhile the timetable of handing over depends on the speed with which the federal army can be developed sufficiently to take over the security both of the federal area and of Aden. To disengage before it can do so is frankly to invite anarchy.

Such a policy does not, of course, mean entrenching the present federal Government, whose weaknesses are evident. The fact has to be faced that some of South Arabia's future leadership must come from its own army—as in other Arab states. Meanwhile MR. BROWN has to consider the federal Government's own constitutional proposals, which ought soon to be on his desk. To remake the federation—to divide nationalist Aden from the feudal hinterland—is probably impracticable at this stage. The Government must soon make the decision whether to see it through in South Arabia whatever the cost in time and money, or pull out on a rigid time-limit no matter what happens afterwards.

Mr Brown Tries Again.
The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Apr 11, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56912.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS184904843

WHEN THERE IS A BREACH OF PAROLE

From Mr. D. A. Haxby

Sir,—In your Law Report of April 11 you report an interesting case taken to the Court of Appeal. A man with a shocking record was brought before Durham Quarter Sessions for sentence after breaking a probation order. He was unrepresented and the court failed to carry out the proper procedures necessary for establishing the breach of the order. Because of that, the Court of Appeal quashed his two years' sentence and put him on probation again.

The point of interest here is the importance attached by the Court of Appeal to the provision of proper procedural safeguards before a man, already convicted, could be committed to prison. Surely similar safeguards should be available to protect those who, under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Bill, will be released from prison on parole and liable to recall. It is the view of this Association that once a man has been granted his liberty, even conditionally, he should be able to answer in a court any allegation that he has broken the conditions of his licence. A court procedure would act as a safeguard against recall being based on unfounded suspicion or unsubstantiated allegations.

The Home Secretary has argued that he should have the right to order recall, and that he should exercise this right on the advice of supervising officers. Probation officers, for their part, do not think that such powers of recommendation should be vested in them, and they urge that any breach of parole should, like breach of probation, be proved in a magistrates' court. Such a system was, after considerable parliamentary debate, incorporated into the 1961 Criminal Justice Act to provide for the extension of statutory after-care. The extension did not materialize, and the provisions have not been used, but the arguments advanced then still remain valid.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. HAXBY, General Secretary,
National Association of Probation Officers.
6 Endsleigh Street, W.C.1, April 12.

GASOMETER IN ABINGDON

From Mr. R. D. Burnell

Sir,—It is intolerable that the Gas Board should have the right to desecrate the amenities of Abingdon. It is even more intolerable that they should insist on exercising that right. I hope they realize that if they persist in building their gasometer in the middle of one of the most beautiful small towns in England generations to come will be in no doubt as to who the twentieth-century vandals are.

Yours faithfully,
R. D. BURNELL.
Appletree, Sonning, Berkshire, April 13.

Oxted's complaint

From Mr. David Grayston

Sir,—I would like to join Dr. A. H. Gomme in his condemnation of the existing planning laws (April 13), which allow nationalized industries to perpetrate ill-conceived monstrosities in the most unsuitable environments.

Our own town and the valley in which it sits have been recently dominated by an enormous gasholder, placed adjacent to the shopping centre on what was vacant Gas Board land.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GRAYSTON.
The Lodge, Icehouse Wood, Oxted, Surrey, April 13.

Canterbury scene

From Mr. E. J. Lake

Sir,—What Abingdon is about to suffer Canterbury has already suffered. Within the last year or so a great, green cylindrical horror has been reared, by the Gas Board, in the Stour meadows just upstream of the city. Now the eye of the visitor arriving from the south-west is met, not by the ancient cathedral but by the modern container.

Your faithfully,
E. J. LAKE.
9 Manwood Avenue, Canterbury, Kent.

BOOK PIRACY

From Mr. Geoffrey Trease

Sir,—Writers no less than publishers will, as Mr. du Sautoy implies (April 8), welcome your prominent featuring of the threat inherent in the new copyright laws being drafted in Asia and Africa. May I, both as an individual and as a member of the council of the Society of Authors, join my voice to Mr. du Sautoy's in urging pressure on these governments to think again?

It is an old argument that, in the sacred name of education, writers and publishers should be robbed of their legal property. No one is expected to build schools, make desks, or supply meat for school dinners without fair payment. Why not? It would be for such a good cause—" for education ".

I already enjoy the wry compliment of having had a book (no textbook, incidentally, but a work of imagination) printed in a special annotated edition of 50,000 copies for use in Soviet schools. I have modest hopes that soon Russia will come into line with other countries, and that before I die I shall enjoy some payment for this and other books of mine widely used there. I look forward with no pleasure at all to seeing a similar kind of injustice starting up in Africa and Asia, perhaps with the unthinking approval of other U.N. member states old enough to know better.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY TREASE.
The Croft, Colwall, near Malvern, Worcestershire, April 12.

ADEN AND ISRAEL

From Lord Lambton, Conservative M.P. for Berwick upon Tweed

Sir,—During the last two years we have seen some odd ventures by the Labour Government into the field of foreign affairs. But none, Sir, odder than Mr. Brown's present Middle Eastern policy in an area whose economic importance to us does not need stressing, and where if peace is maintained there are the financial resources for orderly progress and advancement.

And yet, Sir, in this area Mr. Brown has chosen to follow a foreign policy which has taken no consideration whatsoever of the position of Israel. Sir, a policy which makes this error can be about as successful as a theatrical venture of *Hamlet* without the Prince. For it is impossible to dissociate Israel from the internal affairs of any Arab country.

I wish here to make no apologia for Israel but merely to state the simple fact that it exists, and proposes to continue to exist, and believes—whether rightly or wrongly is entirely irrelevant—that the establishment of Nasser or a Nasser dominated puppet in Aden involves the southern containment of the Israeli Port of Eilat in the Gulf of Akaba and a decided step towards the fulfilment of his pledge to destroy Israel.

In the event, therefore, of Mr. Brown's policy remaining unchanged, and the United Kingdom giving no guarantee to the Aden Federation, the establishment of Nasserism appears as inevitable as does the Israeli reaction to a move against Egypt before it is too late. This would release a chain reaction of war involving both Syria and Jordan, and resulting—in the present balance of power—in the probable conquest by Israel of her claimed territory west of the Jordan, and the consequent inclusion in Israel of a large number of Arab refugees. This would result in bitterness and tension which would make the present Israeli-Arab division appear halcyon days.

Therefore, if the Foreign Secretary continues to follow a foreign policy based on the mistaken belief that the fate of the Aden Federation is no concern of Israel, he is likely to set in train events which could end in war which would surely be an expensive price to pay for not giving the Federation a Defence Treaty.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
LAMBTON.
House of Commons, April 10.

SEEING ST PAUL'S

From Mr. Paul Paget

Sir,—There are one or two points in your Architectural Correspondent's article today on the surrounds of St. Paul's which I think should be commented on for the sake of the record.

The spire of St. Augustine, Watling Street, which the article suggests survived the bombing, is not, in fact, covered with lead, but has recently been constructed in glass fibre. This economy was unavoidable if the unusual silhouette of Wren's original design was to be reinstated, since it would have been too expensive to substitute, in traditional methods of construction, this shape for the much duller form which had replaced Wren's spire in the 1830s, and was completely destroyed in the last war when the tower, the main body of the church and other adjacent buildings were gutted in the raids on London.

I find it difficult to follow reasoning which implies that, whereas the theory of Wren's two-storey Cathedral to be seen above the roofs of the surrounding houses is accepted, the result of much taller buildings allowing vertical glimpses instead of horizontal views does not flout the basic principle. Such a line of argument would be to ignore, as though there were no differences of opinion on the subject, the oft and hotly debated question as to the right and wrong way of cutting a Stilton cheese.

The wide flight of steps leading down from the south side of the Cathedral towards the river Thames is, alas, not on the centre axis of the south porch. Would that it were. There may have been site considerations to recommend canting towards the west, but surely if in a classical composition there was to be a vista at all, it should have been axial to the predominant building.

In all, whilst I am delighted that the article should be held to vindicate Lord Holford, I must resist the inference of the headlines put on to it, which imply that we are now seeing St. Paul's as Wren designed it to be seen.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL PAGET, Surveyor to the fabric of St. Paul's Cathedral.
The Chapter House, E.C.4, April 12.

WAR IN VIETNAM

From Mr. John Dankworth

Sir,—To stop a brawl of any sort, whether it be on the threshold of a pub or a continent, the best chance is to appeal to one of the enraged contestants to climb down. It is usually best to try to pick the most intelligent of the two, who also may be the one with right on his side. All "informed" methods of stopping the Vietnam fiasco having failed, surely this commonsense method is worth a try.

Mr. Alan Lee Williams (April 8) may readily be forgiven for doubting that "Show-biz" personalities are capable of clear thinking on world issues. This is the identical impression, no doubt mistaken, that we in show-business have long had about many Members of Parliament.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DANKWORTH.
Nether Hall, Aspley Guise, Bletchley, Buckinghamshire, April 12.

The killing of children

From Miss Cleo Laine

Sir,—Regarding the letter of Mr. Alan Lee Williams, M.P. (April 8).

Since a recent occasion when a concert in aid of Vietnamese injured was the subject of controversy because a few artistes (myself included) did not correctly read the literature sent to us, I have made it my business to find out as much as I possibly can about this war. But this does not allow me to condone the killing of small children and old and bewildered men and women, who are no more "informed" than Mr. Williams considers some of we signatories to be. If our names on a piece of paper can influence *anybody* to stop and weigh up the issues involved in sober and serious talk, then I will be happy.

Yours faithfully,
CLEO LAINE.
Nether Hall, Aspley Guise, Bletchley, Buckinghamshire, April 12.

'All-party' myth

From Mr. Julian Faber

Sir,—On your front page of Thursday, March 30, you draw attention to the Vietnam advertisement on page five, which you describe as signed by (amongst others) "M.P.s of all parties".

A rough count shows that of the 87 signatures concerned, 83 are Labour, one Liberal, one Welsh Nationalist, one Communist, and one non-party life peer.

If you really feel compelled to go on publishing this type of advertisement, let us at least be spared this "all-party" myth

Yours truly,
I. T. FABER.
3 Chester Square, S.W.1.

TAX ON SAFETY

From Mr. S. W. Feather

Sir,—Whilst everyone concerned with road safety will no doubt welcome the recent legislation which makes the fitting of safety belts to the front seats of all new cars produced after April 1 compulsory, is it necessary to charge purchase tax on the seat belts?

What tax should a government levy on road safety?

Yours faithfully,
S. W. FEATHER.
Windy Garth, Fernbank Avenue, Exley Head, Keighley, Yorkshire.

Aden And Israel.
LAMBTON. House of Commons, April 10

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Apr 15, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56916.

Category: Letters to the Editor

Gale Document Number:CS185560207

ARAB MISSION VISITS WEST GERMANY

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT—BONN, APRIL 18

The arrival here today of Mr. Abdul-Khalik Hassouna, secretary-general of the Arab League, is the occasion for restrained optimism about a possible resumption of diplomatic relations between west Germany and the 10 Arab countries which broke with Bonn in May, 1965, when the Federal Government recognized Israel.

Mr. Hassouna, who will have talks with Dr. Kiesinger, the Chancellor, and with Herr Willy Brandt, the Foreign Minister, during his four-day visit, said at Frankfurt airport that there were justified hopes that his visit would be " fruitful and useful ".

Mr. Hassouna has a delicate mission, as the Arab countries disagree, as in most other things, in their attitude to Bonn. Tunisia, Morocco and Libya failed to withdraw their missions two years ago, and in February this year Jordan got out of step by resuming relations with Bonn on its own.

This angered President Nasser, who had decreed that any such move should only be done through the Arab League. It now appears that the Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and possibly Algeria, are anxious to follow Jordan.

The question of German economic aid to the Arab countries, which the German Government seems disposed to give within its now straitened circumstances, will probably remain at the back of the talks, though in the front of Arab minds.

Moral bond

The Federal Government is likely to get the agreement of the German banks to the consolidation of Egypt's commercial debts to Germany, said to amount to some £90m.

Though conditions are not mentioned by either side, the Arab states will want assurances that Germany will make no arms deliveries to Israel, will cease to pay compensation to Israel, will not take sides in the Arab-Israel conflict, and will refrain from interfering in Arab affairs.

The Federal Government can be expected to demand that the Arab countries will not recognize east Berlin, as none of them have in fact done.

Mr. Hassouna and his hosts are well aware that German freedom is limited by the moral bond west Germany has to the Jews. A strong editorial in *Die Welt* recently argued that whatever diplomatic reasons might exist for agreement with the Arabs, Germany was morally bound to stand by Israel.

Leading article, page 9

Arab Mission Visits West Germany.
FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Apr 19, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56919.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67464339

RIVAL ADEN GROUPS MEET IN SECRET

Fratricide disturbs Egypt

From NICHOLAS HERBERT—Beirut, April 24

South Arabia's two leading nationalist groups, the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (Flosy) and the National Liberation Front (N.L.F.), which have been increasingly at odds, were reported here today to have held a series of secret meetings under the aegis of President Nasser.

They were said to have agreed that continued differences between them could benefit British imperialism and Saudi Arabia, and seriously affect the national revolution.

Whether this means that the split can be healed is not clear, but it suggests that Egypt is concerned at the fratricidal assassinations which have punctuated the nationalists' struggles with British troops in the past six weeks.

Nor is the division within the nationalist ranks necessarily in Britain's interest, although Flosy insists that it is being organized by British officials in Aden.

Qaiti's distaste

The efforts of Lord Shackleton, Minister without Portfolio, to achieve a more representative government for South Arabia would be far simpler if he could deal with a single nationalist group rather than two mutually antagonistic parties.

In this connexion, Shaikh Muhammad Farid, the Minister for External Affairs in the South Arabian Federal Government, was reported as saying today that representatives of Flosy and the N.L.F. would be welcome in a broadly based government.

The catch here is which side would dominate the new government and whether states at present unfederated would be brought in.

The leader of one of these, Sultan Ghalib bin Awadh al-Qaiti, told a Reuter correspondent in his capital of Mukalla today that he would soon set out on a Middle East tour in search of financial aid so that Qaiti state could remain outside the federation.

Expressing his distaste for joining, he said: "During the past 30 years, with British advisers, the Hadhramaut and the whole Eastern Aden Protectorate has enjoyed reasonably settled and peaceful conditions after centuries of tribal blood feuds. Now we are being blackmailed into joining a federation already characterized by turmoil and bloodshed. It is not a very attractive shop window to look into."

Very true but, one might add, it will take more than window dressing to make the federation a going concern. This is what makes Lord Shackleton's task so difficult and makes it so tempting to believe that the N.L.F. and Flosy might be closing their ranks. It happened once before about 18 months ago when the N.L.F. and the Organization for the Liberation of the Occupied South (Olos) merged to form Flosy.

Abdul Qawee Mackawee, the secretary-general of Flosy, insists, in spite of all evidence to the contrary, that the N.L.F. is still absorbed, and points to three founder members of the old N.L.F. who are members of Flosy's supreme revolutionary council.

The N.L.F., which is now operating separately in Aden, has been pressing for a more convincing sort of unity and has appealed publicly to President Nasser of Egypt and President Sallal of republican Yemen to save the area from civil war.

Significantly, it was the Arab Nationalist Movement, which supports the N.L.F., that published today's statement on efforts to bury the hatchet. However, it used an explanation for the internecine killings in Aden which has been more usually heard from Flosy, namely, that they are the work of British *agents provocateur* seeking to divide the revolutionary forces.

Growing enmity

The situation is as involved as even South Arabians could make it, but on essential policies little divides the two groups. Both support the United Nations resolutions of December which call on Britain to lift the state of emergency, repeal laws restrictive of public freedom, cease military operations, and release detainees.

Both opposed the visit of the United Nations mission on the ground that it could not be expected to do its work until the above conditions were fulfilled. Both claim to believe that Britain does not intend to leave the area and, more credibly, that Britain is not dedicated to the United Nations resolutions. Both oppose the Federal Government.

The N.L.F. says it withdrew from Flosy in December because it decided that Flosy did not represent "a proper unity of national forces" and that the national cause had suffered several setbacks since Flosy was created.

Since then there has been growing enmity between the two and, if Flosy's expatriate leaders choose to believe that the N.L.F. does not exist, a lot of their supporters have been kept very busy painting out slogans daubed on buildings by ghosts—unless the N.L.F. slogans really are the work of members of the British High Commission in disguise.

Rival Aden Groups Meet In Secret.
NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Apr 25, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56924.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS69037209

Saud urges support for republican regime

ADEN, April 24.—The deposed King Saud of Saudi Arabia, formerly strongly opposed to President Nasser of Egypt and the republican regime in Yemen, said today that he hopes for a victory of the republicans over his former allies, the royalists.

At a mass meeting in Sana, capital of Yemen, King Saud presented a gift of $1m. to the Republic and sharply attacked his brother, King Faisal, who has replaced him, Sana radio reported.

Saud said: "I do not want to speak about my reasons for leaving my country, but I left in order to prevent bloodshed." He called on the royalists in Yemen to rally to the "legitimate Government of Marshal Abdulla Sallal", adding: "I support the Yemen Arab Republic. I also support the liberating revolution that is taking place in occupied south Yemen."

Speaking at the same rally, Abdul Mackawee, leader of the Front for the Liberation of South Yemen (Flosy), said King Faisal had proved to be "more English than the English people themselves"

Field Marshal Abdel Hakim Amer, First Vice-President of the United Arab Republic, denounced "malicious foreign propaganda" depicting Yemen as an "unstable country where battles are still being fought". He said: "We who are meeting here today say there is no war in Yemen and no battles, but a struggle against all deviationists, traitors, agents, and intruders."—*Agence France Presse.*

Yemen defections to royalists

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Mr. Sandys, the former Commonwealth and Colonial Secretary, described yesterday the evidence he had seen at first hand of tribes defecting to the royalist side in Yemen.

"During my two-day visit to the Yemen", he said, "I was impressed with the high morale of the royalist forces and their eagerness to get to grips again with the foreign invader. I saw clear evidence of the mounting opposition to the Egyptian occupation.

"While I was at the royalist headquarters, which is established in rock caves at Amara, I witnessed the arrival of deputations from two tribes . . . which have now decided to change over to the royalist side."

Mr. Sandys, who returned from his Arabian tour on Sunday, has reported to his colleagues at Westminster that the Egyptians are showing serious anxiety about such defections. He has brought back examples of leaflets dropped from aircraft which threaten ruthless reprisals.

Peruvian strike

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

LIMA, APRIL 24

All employees of the Peruvian post office today joined in the strike declared yesterday by telegraphists and postmen. Members of the armed forces are maintaining essential services.

£400 painting by convict stolen

SYDNEY, April 24.—An oil painting by an English convict, who was transported to Australia for life in 1837, has been stolen from a Sydney art gallery. It is "View of Double Bay", painted in 1849 on a wooden panel by G. E. Peacock, who was sent to Australia after being convicted of forgery in England.

Mr. Frank McDonald, the art gallery owner, today valued the the painting at $A1,000 (£400). He offered a $A100 (£40) reward for its return.—*Reuter.*

Saud urges support for republican regime.
The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Apr 25, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56924.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS69168281

MUSEUM'S GIFT FROM EGYPT

NILE TEMPLE MOVED TO TURIN

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—MILAN, APRIL 24

An Egyptian temple of the eighteenth dynasty, cut in the rock on the hillside overlooking the Nile near Kurusku, has been safely carried to Turin. It travelled by boat down the river, across the Mediterranean and then by train from Genoa through the Appenines. It will now be lifted out of the 66 huge cases in which it is packed and reconstructed at the Egyptian Museum in Turin, one of the richest of its kind.

The temple is a gift from the United Arab Republic and a token of gratitude. The Italian financial contribution towards the preservation of the Abu Simbel temple was $856,000 (£305,000) the second highest after that of the United States, and Italian archaeologists have readily responded to the appeal launched in 1960 through Unesco to hasten excavations and archaeological research before the area was flooded by the completion of the Aswan dam.

In 1961, 1962, and 1964 10 Italian archaeological expeditions were organized. One of them, under Professor Silvio Curto, director of the Turin Egyptian Museum, led in 1962 to the location and unearthing of the Byzantine town of Talmis on the site of the modern Kalabsha.

It was Professor Curto who, with the help of the Egyptian Antiquities Service, directed operations for the removal of the temple given to the Turin museum. The rock was cut in blocks with the technique used for the Abu Simbel temple and removed in 15 days.

The expedition had to complete the operation within the short time allowed by the seasonal lowering of the level of the Nile just before the filling of the basin started in 1965. The site of the temple could be reached only from the Nile, the slope above being too steep; and only when the level of the Nile was at its lowest did the temple emerge from the waters.

The temple, known as the Ellesia rock temple, was cut in the rock under Thutmose III (1505-1450 B.C.), the conqueror of Syria, under whom the Egyptian empire reached its greatest expansion. It has a cross-shaped plan and measures about 26½ft. by 26½ft., with a maximum height of 10ft.

The temple consists of an atrium, containing three statues of deities rather corroded by water, a rectangular hall, and an inner sanctum where the cult was performed. Its historical importance lies in its being an early example of a temple entirely cut in the rock—a technique that became common later.

The temple is decorated with a band of low relief sculptures, with hieroglyphic inscriptions, some 10ft. high and running for about 60ft. along the inner wall. The sculptures represent scenes of offerings to deities made by Thutmose III.

Nile Temple Moved To Turin.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Apr 25, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56924.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS84503705

BOOK REVIVES 'COLLUSION' THEME

SUEZ MINISTERS CRITICIZED

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

The old theme of "collusion" —how much preplanning with Israel was there before the Suez attack—comes up again in Professor Hugh Thomas's *The Suez Affair* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson: 166pp.; 36s.) published today. He writes:

"It was doubtless true, as Mr. Selwyn Lloyd told the House of Commons on October 31, 1956, that the Government had not incited Israel to attack. For the Foreign Secretary to say that 'there was no prior agreement between us about it' appears, in the light of evidence summarized here, to be a straightforward lie, as does Eden's statement in the House of Commons on December 20, 1956, that there was 'not foreknowledge that Israel would attack Egypt'. Equally mendacious, by commission or omission, seem to be speeches of other Ministers when speaking on this theme at this time."

The critical meeting was that at Sèvres, near Paris, on October 23, 1956, between M. Mollet, Mr. Ben-Gurion and a "responsible British Minister".

"There is no reason", writes Professor Thomas, "to doubt that the British Minister who went to Paris was Lloyd (even though he was speaking in the House of Commons at 3.30) and the official, Patrick Dean, the Deputy Under-Secretary of State dealing with the coordination of political and military intelligence in the Foreign Office who had served Eden faithfully throughout the crisis."

Professor Thomas regards the "deliberate deception of the people" as the bigest mistake made by the Government over Suez:

"It is surely inexcusable to send troops into battle and to make appeals for national unity on a false premise. General Sir Hugh Stockwell has made the same point when explaining that 'the lack of a clear political aim' bedevilled the expedition, so that no one in the forces had a 'full and clear idea as to what they were being sent to do and why'."

But Professor Thomas adds: "If they [the British Ministers] deceived their country, they also seem to have deceived themselves."

Commenting on an earlier meeting in Paris between the British and French Ministers (September 25). Professor Thomas writes:—

No minutes kept

"Whatever was decided about Israel, the regular Foreign Service would not be told or consulted. No minutes were kept of these meetings. Eden had, as has been seen, been relying for information about Egypt on a number of dubious secret sources. Now he began to cut himself off from the advice of most of those ambassadors and civil servants with whom he had been working all his life.

"So far as can be seen only three civil servants were informed fully —the Head of the Foreign Office (Kirkpatrick); the Secretary of the Cabinet (Brook); and the Deputy Under-Secretary of State in the Foreign Office, Patrick Dean, who was responsible for most of the work. The decision as to 'whom to tell' was left to Kirkpatrick, who decided to tell no one. . . .

"Doubtless the Foreign Office would have been consulted normally if they had not made their hostility towards any collaboration with Israel perfectly clear. In the course of the next weeks, therefore, the British leaders entered into a somewhat unreal world which, though doubtless effective when blowing up a train in the Resistance had certain disadvantages when it was a question of committing 100,000 men to a conventional war."

According to Professor Thomas "one version of minutes [when relations with Israel were involved] was apparently prepared in longhand for the Queen, who was thus fully informed and according to one account was worried".

Professor Thomas also comments on the ill effects on national unity caused by the Government's failure to keep the Opposition informed. In August:

"Gaitskell, with Parliament away, heard by chance of the scale of the undertaking at Malta from Mintoff, who chanced to be in London. He did not believe him, though Bevan did. It was somewhat unfortunate for the leaders of the Opposition that they had recently accepted the resignation of Colonel Wigg, who was always fully informed, from the post of Opposition spokesman of the Army: Gaitskell refused to listen to Wigg. Eden's neglect to inform Gaitskell of the magnitude of the proposed operations helps perhaps towards explaining the violence with which Gaitskell later attacked him."

Suez Ministers Criticized.
BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Apr 27, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56926.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68381851

Egyptian oil

Following discoveries of rich resources on the Red Sea coast and in the western desert near Alamein, Egypt is on the threshhold of becoming an important oil exporting country.

P. 24

Surcharge opposed

A proposal for a surcharge on wholesale fruit and vegetable sales, recommended to its members by the National Federation of Fruit and Potato Trades, should be withdrawn, says the Prices and Incomes Board.

P. 24

Microelectronics

With the establishment of a production unit to make 500,000 thick film electronic circuits a year, Standard Telephones and Cables is intering the rapidly expanding microelectronics market.

P. 22

Aims of R & D

Research and development should be more customer-oriented and judged along the lines of earnings on capital employed, Sir Arnold Hall, chairman of Hawker Siddeley, said at yesterday's luncheon of the Electrical Research Association.

P. 23

Trainee dearth

A new construction industry training centre, opened yesterday, has less than 25 per cent of the students it can accommodate. Is the industry ignoring the benefits of training?

P. 23

Bank rate

The possibility of a further reduction in Bank rate this morning was widely discussed in the City yesterday. The general concensus of opinion seemed to be that a cut is imminent, but the chances of it coming today were rated no higher than

P. 29

PLA deficit

The Port of London Authority incurred a deficit of £2,700,000 in the last nine months of 1966. The seamen's strike, the prices freeze, and the import surcharge were contributory factors.

P. 23

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News in Brief.
The Times (London, England),Thursday, Apr 27, 1967; pg. 21; Issue 56926.

Category: News in Brief

Gale Document Number:CS354905243

Egypt will soon have oil for export

Egypt is on the threshhold of becoming an important oil-exporting country following discoveries of rich resources on the Red Sea coast and in the Western Desert near Alamein.

Reliable estimates indicate that by 1970 Egypt's oil production is expected to realize an annual income of about £100m. By then, the annual output will reach nearly 30 million tons without taking into account any new finds resulting from extensive exploration operations in various parts of the country. The gradual increase of oil production will cover local needs with a substantial surplus for export, turning Egypt from being a heavy oil importing country to an important exporter.

Experts here expect that in 1968 Egypt's revenues from oil exports will total about £30m. Foreign currency secured will greatly help towards relieving economic difficulties facing this country as a result of ambitious development programmes.

So far, the most important find is the "Morgan" oil field which was discovered last year when Pan-American Oil Company in collaboration with the Egyptian Petroleum Organisation struck oil in the Gulf of Suez. Production of this field, which has already begun, is estimated at 30.000 barrels a day and will reach 100.000 barrels daily by next December. According to preliminary estimates, the "Morgan" production will gradually increase to reach about 10 million tons annually in 1970.

Mr. Hassan Amer, chairman of Egypt's Petroleum Organisation, recently said that there were promising indications of finding an "oil-lake" at the end of the Suez Gulf where drilling would shortly start.

Oil discovery in the Western Desert, about 20 miles south-west of Alamein, is an interesting one as it might be an extension of resources in Libya. Oil was found there last December by the United States Philips Oil Company, whose manager, Mr. Ronald Beck, said that it was one of the most successful and promising ventures in the history of the company.

Meanwhile, it was reported here that a number of western oil companies have approached Egypt for oil-drilling concessions and that the Deputy Premier for Mineral Resources and Petroleum has recently left for the United States in order to have talks on oil there.

Egypt will soon have oil for export.
The Times (London, England),Thursday, Apr 27, 1967; pg. 24; Issue 56926.

Category: Business and Finance

Gale Document Number:CS403270811

NO END OF A LESSON—1

The crisis begins—Eden resolves to remove Nasser

By Anthony Nutting, who was Minister of State for Foreign Affairs from 1954 until he resigned at the end of October, 1956.

"Let us admit it fairly as a business people should.
"We have had no end of a lesson, it will do us no end of good."

Rudyard Kipling's well-known lines on the Boer War could apply equally appropriately to the Suez disaster of 1956. The Boer War, like the American War of Independence nearly 150 years before, showed that the Dutch colonists were not prepared to submit to British imperialism: the Suez War, 50 years later, showed that Britain could no longer dictate to Egypt.

Within the span of that turbulent half-century the world was transformed and the conditions in which Britain had been able to play her former imperial role ceased to exist. British rule was withdrawn from vast areas of the world as the nineteenth-century concept of Empire was swept away in the scalding torrents of twentieth-century nationalism.

One of the more curious features of modern British history is that, while generally prepared to accept this transformation in respect of the Indian and Colonial Empires, successive British Governments were to show an extreme reluctance to abdicate control in the Middle East. The more directly Britain exercised dominion over a vassal state, the readier it would seem were her statesmen to concede independence. But in the Middle East, where—except for Cyprus and Aden—her influence was exerted through local rulers rather than by colonial governors, Britain stubbornly persisted in opposing the winds of change, insisting both on her need and on her right to maintain military bases throughout the area.

Thus the last dying convulsion of British imperialism was to be enacted in an area which, paradoxically, had never formed part of Britain's Empire. And the lesson of the decline in Britain's power to control events and dictate to governments which started in South Africa at the turn of the century was to be completed in Egypt 50 years later.

It was my unhappy lot to have witnessed from the inside the learning of this bitter lesson, likewise to have seen all my warnings against reverting to gunboat diplomacy ignored. Thus I was left with no alternative but to dissociate myself from the Government of the day by resigning my post as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. Apart from a brief letter to the Prime Minister stating that I could not defend his policy any longer and must therefore ask him to accept my resignation, no explanation of my action has been vouchsafed by me until now. I made no statement to the House of Commons, although it is an almost invariable custom for a Minister who resigns on an issue of principle to do so, and, in all the newspaper articles and books which I have written about Britain's relations with Egypt and the Arab world, I have avoided discussing the Suez debacle in any but the most general terms.

ALL OUT OF OFFICE

The reasons for this long silence are very simple. Either I had to tell the whole story as I saw it, or say nothing at all. And so long as any of the chief protagonists of the Suez War still held high public office in Britain, it would have clearly been a grave disservice to the nation, which they still led and represented in the councils of the world, to have told the whole story. No doubt other nations and statesmen suspected that the Israeli attack on Egypt had been planned in collusion with Britain and France and that British Ministers at the time had sought to cover up their misdeeds by refusing to admit the truth. But to have publicly confirmed their suspicions would merely have made it impossible for them to have dealt with these same Ministers on a basis of confidence and trust.

Now, however, those who led us into this debacle are out of office and, with one exception, out of politics and Britain is represented by men who bear no responsibility for the decisions of 10 years ago. The time has therefore come to reconsider whether the Suez story should be told in full or whether the veil of silence should be left undrawn. And I have decided to tell it, and to tell it now, for the following reasons.

First, I hope I may not be thought immodest in saying that I feel I owe it to history to tell it. Due to the intense security precautions taken at the time, only some half a dozen people in Britain today know the story as I know it—and of this "select" group all but I myself were so involved in the venture that for them to reveal the truth now would involve an act of confession too mortifying for any man to volunteer. Added to this, since no records were kept, at least on the British side, of the discussions between Britain, France and Israel which led to the attack on Egypt, the historian will find no enlightenment in the archives of the Foreign Office when the official history of these times comes to be written.

Second, there have been over the past year or so several revelations by important participants in the Suez War such as M. Christian Pineau, who was Foreign Minister of France at the time, and General Moshe Dayan, who commanded the Israeli army in the attack on Egypt. While not telling the whole story, these revelations have done enough to show that the explanations of Britain's part in the affair which were given to Parliament by British Ministers at the time were, to say the least, grossly misleading and disingenuous. What has not been explained is how and why Anthony Eden came to adopt a policy which was, at one and the same time, morally indefensible and politically suicidal. Thus, thanks to men such as Pineau and Dayan, the world now knows that Eden and his colleagues were parties to a sordid conspiracy with France and Israel to seize the Suez Canal; but little or nothing is known of the pressures, personal and public, physical and political, which drove Britain's twentieth-century Talleyrand to put upon himself the mantle of Napoleon.

Third, I have deliberately decided that it is only fair to publish this personal memoir in the lifetime of those who were involved. There is, of course, a school of thought which holds that books such as this should not appear until after the principal characters are dead. But I personally believe that, in this case at least, the participants should have the opportunity to speak for themselves and that it would be, in fact if not in intention, an act of cowardice to publish such a book after they are dead.

Finally, I have a personal reason for telling this strange and tragic story. The Suez episode and my resignation from the Government and from Parliament wrecked my political career. Much as I regret this and much as I hated having to give up a ministerial post of consuming interest, I have no complaints.

One of the disagreeable things about politics is that *it sometimes requires that* a choice be made between loyalty to principles and loyalty to friends. I was forced to make this choice and, while I chose to be loyal to principles, I can honestly say that I made my decision without any sense of bitterness towards the friends from whom I was to be parted. Likewise, in what I have written of the Suez War as I saw it, I have had no bitter feelings, only sadness that it should have fallen to my lot to participate in, and now to relate, this tragic chapter of England's history.

Inevitably I have been highly critical in places of those whom I served, but I trust that they will do me the justice of confirming that such criticism is not the product of hindsight and that I was as adamant in opposing their policies at the time as I am now in reasserting that what they did was morally wrong and politically insane. If as a result my account should seem shocking or even offensive to some people, or to be a departure from "convention", I make no apologies. For there is, as there can be, no convention which allows a government to deceive Parliament and people and, sheltering behind that deception, to lead the nation into war, yet which denies the *right* to one who dissociated himself from that deception by resigning his office to reveal the truth.

* * * *

The drama that was to become the Suez disaster actually began on March 1, 1956. In the early afternoon of that day the Prime Minister of Jordan sent for the British Ambassador and told him that King Husain had just given a personal order for the immediate dismissal of General Glubb from the post of Chief of the General Staff and Commander of the Arab Legion, Jordan's army. A few hours later, after the news had reached London, the Prime Minister of Great Britain declared a personal war on the man whom he held responsible for Glubb's



Before the conflict: Eden and Nasser meet at a dinner party at the British Embassy in Cairo, February 1955.

dismissal—Gamal Abdel Nasser, President and Prime Minister of Egypt. For Eden, such a blow to Britain's waning prestige as an imperial power, capable of influencing men and events in the Middle East, could not be allowed to *go unpunished*. The summary sacking of this venerable British officer, who had served Jordan for 25 years and commanded the Arab Legion since 1939, was a challenge which no British Government, least of all a Conservative Government, could lightly dismiss. And the "fact" that it had been engineered by an upstart dictator in Egypt made it all the more intolerable and hence imperative to stage some spectacular and crushing remonstrance against the instigator of Britain's humiliation.

Anthony Eden has since said in his memoir, *Full Circle*, that he is "now convinced" that the King's attitude towards his British Commander-in-Chief was partly inspired by "jealousy of a younger man for an older one long established in a position of authority in the country". But, as one who spent the evening and half of the night after Glubb's dismissal arguing with Eden, I can testify that, at the time, he put all the blame on Nasser and brushed aside every argument that more personal considerations had in fact influenced Husain's arbitrary decision. And on that fatal day he decided that the world was not big enough to hold both him and Nasser. The "Egyptian dictator" had to be eliminated somehow or other, else he would destroy Britain's position in the Middle East and Eden's position as Prime Minister of Britain. . . .

From now on Eden completely lost his touch. Gone was his old uncanny sense of timing, his deft feel for negotiation. Driven by the impulses of pride and prestige and nagged by mounting sickness he began to behave like an enraged elephant charging senselessly at invisible and imaginary enemies in the international jungle. In the parliamentary debate on Glubb's dismissal, he made the worst speech of his whole career.

Admittedly it was an awkward debate, with the Government somewhat on the defensive, largely because Eden, instead of playing this unhappy episode down, had dramatized it into a *cause célèbre*. It was also one of those debates in which



Mr. Anthony Nutting

there was only one real speech to be made for the Government, which was the opening speech. I begged Eden to make it and to let me wind up, but he refused. He much preferred winding up, which gave him an opportunity to use his debating skills and, although I pointed out that he would have nothing to say except to reply to jibes of the critics—scarcely a very dignified role for a Prime Minister—he insisted that I should open and he wind up.

His speech was a shambles. Inevitably he was left with nothing to say except a few debating points totally unworthy of a man in his position. As he carried on amid constant interruptions, I felt more and more embarrassed for him. And then, to the horrified amazement of his supporters, he finally lost his temper, something I had never seen him do before in all the 11 years that I had sat with him in the House of Commons. On the following day at a lunch party at No. 10 he tried to make a joke about how much worse his speech had been than mine. But as we discussed the debate and the situation that gave rise to it, a feeling came over me that I was talking to a total stranger. No longer did we see things in the same way; a wide gulf was now between us; and I knew even then that nothing about our old relationship would ever be the same again. What I did not know was how much of this metamorphosis was due to sickness and to the poison from a damaged bile-duct, which was eating away at his whole system.

CALL TO THE SAVOY

A few days later the extent of the change in Eden was further brought home to me. On the Monday after the Glubb debate I was playing host at a dinner at the Savoy Hotel given for Mr. Harold Stassen, my American colleague on the U.N. Disarmament Commission, who had come to London for a further round of discussions with the Russians in the five-power Disarmament Subcommittee. Earlier that day I had sent the Prime Minister a memorandum on the Middle East, suggesting one or two ways of strengthening our position in the area and of shedding unrewarding responsibilities. First, I had suggested that we should tell the United Nations that it was high time they took over the responsibility for keeping the peace between Israel and her Arab neighbours. Under the Tripartite Declaration of 1950, issued by America, France, and ourselves, we three powers were alone responsible for preventing either side from starting another "round" in the Arab-Israeli struggle, and there was every reason why this responsibility should be more widely shared. I had in mind a form of permanent U.N. police force stationed on Israel's borders.

My second suggestion was that we should step up our aid, military and economic, to our friends in the Arab world. Finally, realizing that it would be useless to oppose head-on Eden's declaration of war on Nasser, I tried to soften and divert him with suggestions for neutralizing Nasser's attacks on our interests.

To the Foreign Office advisers, who helped me to compose this memorandum, all these suggestions seemed unexceptionable. Yet when they reached No. 10 later that evening, they caused an explosion. In the middle of dinner with Stassen I was called to the telephone. "It's me", said a voice which I recognized as the Prime Minister's. If his esoteric self-introduction was meant to conceal his identity from the Savoy Hotel switchboard, our subsequent conversation could hardly have done more to defeat his purpose.

"What's all this poppycock you've sent me?" he shouted. "I don't agree with a single word of it."

I replied that it was an attempt to look ahead and to rationalize our position in the Middle East, so as to avoid in the future the kind of blow to our prestige that we had just suffered over Glubb.

"But what's all this nonsense about isolating Nasser or neutralizing him, as you call it? I want him destroyed, can't you understand? I want him removed, and if you and the Foreign Office don't agree, then you'd better come to the Cabinet and explain why."

I tried to calm him by saying that, before deciding to destroy Nasser, it might be wise to look for some alternative who would not be still more hostile to us. At the moment there did not appear to be any alternative, hostile or friendly. And the only result of removing Nasser would be anarchy in Egypt.

"But I don't want an alternative", Eden shouted at me. "And I don't give a damn if there's anarchy and chaos in Egypt."

With this he hung up, leaving me to return to my dinner. I felt as if I had had a nightmare, only the nightmare was real.

On Monday: The canal is nationalized, dispute grows with the U.S., France and Israel get together.

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These extracts are taken from Mr. Nutting's book, No End of a Lesson, the Story of Suez, *which will be published later this year by Constable.*

The crisis begins-Eden resolves to remove Nasser.
By Anthony Nutting, who was Minister of State for Foreign Affairs from 1954 until he resigned at the end of October, 1956

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Category: News

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NO END OF A LESSON—2

France and Israel hatch their plot against Egypt

By Anthony Nutting

On July 19, 1956, the United States informed Egypt that it was cancelling the loan for the Aswan Dam. In London the British Government promptly followed suit. On July 26 Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal.

This was the challenge for which Eden had been waiting. Now at last he had found a pretext to launch an all-out campaign of political, economic and military pressures on Egypt and to destroy for ever Nasser's image as the leader of Arab nationalism.

Two days after the nationalization of the Canal, the Treasury ordered that all Egypt's sterling balances and assets should be frozen. France followed suit on July 29 and the United States did likewise two days later. On July 30 Eden ordered a ban on the export of all further war material to Egypt; four days later some 20,000 British Army reservists were called up, and naval, military and air reinforcements were dispatched to the eastern Mediterranean. Eden telegraphed to President Eisenhower to say that economic pressures alone were "unlikely to attain our objectives" and that he and his colleagues were "convinced that we must be ready, in the last resort, to use force to bring Nasser to his senses". The Chiefs of Staff, Eden added, had been instructed "to prepare a military plan accordingly". With these ominous words the American President was invited to exchange views with the British and French governments on the best means of undoing Nasser's action and placing the management of the Canal once more in international custody. Two days later Eden went a stage further and, as Eisenhower has revealed in his book, *Waging Peace*, sent the President a very secret message saying that he had decided that the only way to break Nasser would be to resort to force without delay and without attempting to negotiate. To this Eisenhower responded by sending Dulles to London with instructions to promote the earliest practicable meeting of the maritime powers with a view to bringing Nasser to negotiate a reasonable settlement. At the same time, he telegraphed to Eden his grave misgivings about the decision to use force straight away, which would "outrage" American as well as world opinion.

On August 1 Mr. Dulles arrived in London to take part in the talks between Britain, France and the United States which had begun a couple of days earlier. He lost no time in saying that he was in full agreement with Eden's statement in the House of Commons that no arrangements for the Suez Canal's future would be acceptable "which would leave it in the unfettered control of a single power which could . . . exploit it purely for purposes of national policy". And to Eden's delight, he spoke of finding a way "to make Nasser disgorge". He even admitted the possibility of using force, although only in the very last resort.

FINDING A PRETEXT

Although the immediate result was to persuade Eden at least to go through the motions of attempting to mobilize world opinion in favour of an international sanction before resorting to more forceful measures, there is no doubt that Dulles's words were unfortunately chosen. For they undoubtedly encouraged Eden to believe that, notwithstanding Eisenhower's cautionary cable, the United States were a lot more solidly behind Britain and France than was the case, or could possibly be the case with a presidential election looming in three months' time.

Nasser refused to attend the conference of signatories of the Constantinople Convention, and the Menzies mission to Cairo to try to persuade him to accept international operation of the canal failed. At the same time Nasser offered no provocation that would justify the use of force, though the French Government kept up its efforts to topple him.

If the British were squeamish about attacking Nasser without provocation, there were ways of manufacturing the necessary pretext. Without saying a word at this point to Eden, or to any British Minister, the French now turned to the Israelis for help in this direction. Israel had recently been complaining bitterly about raids across her borders conducted by Egyptian-sponsored terrorists, the so-called *fedayeen*; and Mollet and his Ministers realized instinctively that with a little encouragement it should be possible to turn the current Israeli temper to French advantage.

France had been in the closest contact with Israel ever since the 1954 agreement between Britain and Egypt had heralded the early withdrawal of British forces from the Suez Canal Zone. Israel, claiming that this withdrawal left her more than ever exposed to Egypt's threats, had then sought aid and comfort from the French, who, having lost out to Arab nationalism in Lebanon and Syria, and being threatened with a similar fate in North Africa, were bitterly anti-Arab, and especially anti-Egyptian. The French had responded both with sympathy and, in a more practical sense, with arms. Little did they care if they flouted the balance-of-arms policy of the signatories of the Tripartite Declaration. And, in their cynical way, they did not even care that the large quantities of French arms sold to Israel should have precipitated the arms deal between Egypt and the Soviet block. This, they reasoned, would only encourage Nasser to overstep the mark and so bring about his own destruction. Thus, as I was later to discover, it happened that when Nasser nationalized the Canal Company, the Director-General of the Israeli Ministry of Defence, Mr. Shimon Peres, was discussing arms deliveries with the French Government. And even while Menzies was still in Cairo trying to persuade Nasser to negotiate on the Eighteen-Power Proposals, the French were hard at work with Peres and Israeli staff officers planning a method of recapturing the Canal.

EDEN WAS BLUNT

I was away on sick-leave during the early part of August, and only returned when the London Conference had ended and Menzies was about to take off for Cairo. At the first opportunity I confessed my anxieties both to Eden and to Lloyd about the course on which we were embarked. I pointed out all the obvious dangers of allying ourselves too closely with France, and therefore with Israel, the two nations most hated and suspected by the Arabs. I urged that we should keep in the closest touch with the Americans and I suggested that, unless by some miracle Menzies managed to persuade Nasser to negotiate on the 18-power proposal, our next step should be to go to the United Nations.

Eden's reply to all this was blunt. If we did not show strength now, we should eventually lose all our oil to Nasser. The Americans did not really care about the Suez Canal, but the French did, and so did the Israelis, who deserved to be allowed to use it. He did not care whether Gaitskell supported or opposed him. As for the U.N., they had proved to be a dead loss; neither the Security Council nor the General Assembly could give us what we wanted.

Lloyd took a rather different line. While agreeing with Eden that Nasser posed a grave threat to British interests in the Middle East, he told me that he was arguing strongly that, when the Menzies mission had failed to get a settlement by direct negotiation, we should go straight to the U.N. Whatever we decided to do in the end, he said, whether we continued to negotiate or moved in to settle the issue by force of arms, we must first go through the U.N. hoop. "We must set the stage", he concluded. And when I asked if his stage-setting would be for war, he replied, "For war or for negotiation". I pressed him to say which course he favoured. But he avoided a direct answer, merely saying that he felt sure that Nasser would in due time commit some act of provocation.

Dulles now proposed that a Suez Canal Users' Association be formed, but at a meeting on September 19 in London it became apparent that whereas Britain hoped that the S.C.U.A. would be a means of denying canal dues to Egypt, the United States would accept no such obligation.

When it became clear that the S.C.U.A. project was not going to turn out as Eden had hoped, Lloyd once again got to work on his colleagues with his theme of "setting the stage" by a reference to the United Nations.

So distraught was Eden at the turn which events had taken that, although he had no love and still less respect for the U.N. as a court of justice, he was persuaded by Lloyd's arguments and agreed to ask for a meeting of the Security Council early in October. Anything, he felt, was better than merely sitting back and waiting while our case went by default and Nasser "consolidated his prize". British public opinion was becoming apathetic, the reservists were getting restive and there was no sign as yet that our economic pressures on Egypt were giving Nasser pause. Accordingly, the French Government was asked to join with us in requesting a Security Council debate for October 3, two days after the proposed inauguration of S.C.U.A. This time Mollet agreed without conditions, and on September 23 an Anglo-French note was sent to the President of the Security Council asking that the Suez dispute be placed on the Council's agenda.

Three days later, on September 26, Eden and Lloyd flew to Paris for talks with Mollet and Pineau. Before they left Eden sent for me and told me to explore with the European experts at the Foreign Office whether there was any "present" that he might take with him which would demonstrate our desire for Anglo-French solidarity. To my astonishment, he suggested that the Foreign Office should have another look at Churchill's offer of common citizenship for all British and French nationals, which was made in 1940 in a desperate effort to keep France in the fight against Hitler. I replied that it seemed hardly appropriate to revive such an offer at this stage, and that the best gesture we could make would be to join in the negotiations for a European Common Market which had started at Messina 15 months before and from which we had deliberately absented ourselves.

But Eden, who disliked the idea of getting entangled with any European movement which smacked of federation, would have none of this. He wanted to offer the French something special, some gesture of particular significance to the Anglo-French alliance, and not something which France would have to share with five other European countries. Would I therefore please do as I was bid and look at the possibilities of reviving the Churchill offer?

In the event, nothing came of this strange notion and Eden left for Paris with no "present" for Mollet. When Eden and Lloyd reached Paris, they found Mollet and Pineau in great spirits and in a very belligerent mood. So certain were they that the Israelis would shortly provide the pretext for settling the Canal issue by force that they no longer showed any qualms about going to the U.N. or establishing the Users' Club, both of which they regarded as necessary preliminaries for the forthcoming military operations. But they did not at this stage reveal to Eden or Lloyd the plans which they were concocting with the Israelis.

In New York it became clear in private talks with Fawzi, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, that Egypt was disposed to modify its stand, and to accept some form of user cooperation in the working of the canal. In spite of the fact that a negotiated settlement was in sight Britain and France pressed for a vote in the U.N. Security Council on a peremptory resolution that Egypt could not accept. Russia vetoed the resolution.

In Paris there was much relief over this development, which suited Mollet's plans down to the ground. Fawzi's privately offered concessions could be conveniently disregarded now that the Security Council had shown that the original deadlock still persisted with Egypt, and Russia, firmly ranged against Britain and France. Besides, the French had been particularly gratified to observe that Eden was no less keen than they to overlook Fawzi's suggested compromise and to invite a Russian veto by pressing the Anglo-French resolution to a vote. For as the Security Council debate came to its inevitable end, the discussions between the French and Israeli General Staffs had reached a stage where it had become essential to bring Britain into the conspiracy.

NEED OF AIR BASES

As I subsequently found out, when these discussions first began in September, the Israelis had been reluctant to get involved in French plans for settling the Suez dispute by force of arms. Although obvious advantages would accrue to Israel if an Anglo-French *coup de main* should seize the Canal and force Egypt to grant passage rights to Israeli ships and cargoes, Israel's Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion, felt that the dispute was primarily an issue between the Great Powers and Egypt. On the other hand the pressures which Egypt was exerting on Israel from the Gaza Strip and in the Tiran Strait at the entrance to the Gulf of Akaba were becoming intolerable. The Gaza Strip was the main base for the *fedayeen* terrorist raids into Israel, while the Egyptian gun emplacements at Sharm es-Sheikh on the Tiran Strait were preventing Israel from receiving any supplies through her back-door, the port of Elath. And Ben Gurion was more than ready to put an end to these harassments by a short, sharp operation against Gaza and Sharm es-Sheikh. But that was as far as he wished to go.

However, as the discussions progressed, the Israelis gradually succumbed to French solicitations, reinforced by the promise to deliver to Israel no fewer than 100 Super-Sherman tanks, 200 half-track armoured vehicles, 200 trucks and 20 tank-transporters. And by early October, Ben Gurion had agreed to help provide a pretext for the seizure of the Canal by attacking Egypt across the Sinai Peninsula, as well as clearing the Egyptians out of Gaza and the Tiran Strait, French and, it was hoped, British troops would then move in to "protect" the waterway and occupy the Canal. But there was one important condition to his agreement. The state of Israel had to be guaranteed against retaliatory bombing of Israeli cities by Nasser's Russian-equipped Air Force. This meant an air-strike against Egyptian airfields in conjunction with the Israeli attack. And Mollet knew that, whatever else the French might be able to accomplish on their own, Britain, and only Britain, had bomber bases sufficiently near at hand to take on this essential task.

Thus the time had come to invite Eden to join in the plot.

Tomorrow: Invitation to a conspiracy.

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Three men at odds: left, Mr. Selwyn Lloyd of Britain; centre, Mr. John Foster Dulles of the United States; right, Mr. Fawzi of Egypt. The three Foreign Ministers were taking part in the Security Council debate on Suez.

These extracts are taken from Mr. Nutting's book, No End of a Lesson, the Story of Suez, *which will be published later this year by Constable.*

France and Israel hatch their plot against Egypt.
Anthony Nutting

The Times (London, England),Monday, May 01, 1967; pg. 9; Issue 56929.

Category: News

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French had a secret plan for Suez

BY A STAFF REPORTER

One of two French emissaries, General Maurice Challe, outlined at a secret meeting at Chequers a possible plan for Britain and France to gain physical control of the Suez Canal, Mr. Anthony Nutting, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs at the time, says in his book on Suez, *No End of Lesson*, of which an extract appears on page 11 today.

The plan was that Israel should be invited to attack Egypt across the Sinai peninsula and that France and Britain, having given the Israeli forces enough time to seize most of Sinai, should then order "both sides" to withdraw from the canal.

This would permit an Anglo-French force to intervene on the pretext of saving the canal from damage.

General Challe, Deputy Chief of Staff for the French Air Force, was accompanied by M. Albert Gazier, then acting Foreign Minister of France. To preserve secrecy they landed on the military side of Northolt airport and saw Sir Anthony Eden at Chequers instead of Downing Street.

French had a secret plan for Suez.
BY A STAFF REPORTER

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, May 02, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56930.

Category: News

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S Arabia accuses Egypt

Blame for children's deaths

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—ADEN, MAY 1

The South Arabian Federal Government today accused Egypt of being responsible for the deaths of seven Arab schoolchildren yesterday when their mini-bus exploded an anti-tank pressure mine in the Shaikh Othman suburb of Aden. Nationalist organizations here have blamed Britain for the incident, in which the bus driver was also killed and 13 other schoolchildren were injured, at least five of them seriously.

The accusation against Egypt was made in telegrams sent today by Sultan Saleh bin Husain al-Audhali, chairman of the Federal Supreme Council (Cabinet), to U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as the chairman of the sub-committee on colonialism and Arab and North African leaders.

In his telegram to U Thant, Sultan Saleh said: "We call upon you most urgently to condemn this crime in the strongest terms and to demand that Egypt and those who carry out her instructions cease their campaign of bloodshed and terrorism against our people."

Strong appeal

In his telegram to President Nasser he said that terrorists operating from Yemen were responsible for yesterday's incident and that this latest atrocity was clearly carried out with the full knowledge, if not connivance, of the Egyptian authorities in Yemen.

He added: "I call upon you to exert the decisive influence which you possess to cause the terrorists operating from Yemen to cease their barbaric activities against our country and people."

Sultan Saleh called on the Arab leaders to make a strong appeal to President Nasser to comply with his request. He said the terrorism perpetrated against South Arabia from Yemen, which was condoned if not organized by the Egyptian authorities, was seeking to reduce the Arabian people to misery and slavery.

"Only through your decisive intervention can those responsible be forced to abstain from these inhuman activities", he said.

The federal Government, which described yesterday's incident as a "national tragedy", declared three days of mourning.

In protest against the incident, nationalist organizations called for a strike today which totally paralysed Aden and provoked anti-British violence, which resulted in one Arab being killed and three people, including a British soldier, being injured.

In Shaikh Othman—dubbed "Little Vietnam" by nationalists—men of The Royal Anglian Regiment today adopted new tactical moves against snipers from rooftops which helped very much to reduce the frequency of incidents and casualties.

Lieutenant John Hart, of The Royal Anglian Regiment, said observation posts in Shaikh Othman had been increased to 12 in order to give troops better observation over the area and to enable them to deal with snipers. "Our aim this time is to locate the sniper and then assault his position", he said.

Platoon action

In today's first such assault a platoon roared up in three armoured personnel carriers to a girls' school where a sniper had been spotted. Troops kicked open the main gate of the school, which along with all schools in Aden have been shut for three days, to search, but they came under fire from a house to the rear of the school.

In a second assault at another place in the Shaikh Othman district a sniper escaped before troops arrived to search a house.

In Crater two platoons of The Northumberland Fusiliers occupied the market square, where local policemen and the fire brigade were trying to extinguish several small bonfires of old tyres and rubbish and were being stoned. As the troops took up positions on street corners and rooftops overlooking the square, a grenade was hurled at them. The troops suffered no casualties, but an Arab was injured.

In one exchange of fire in Crater an Army padré and three journalists were pinned down in the municipal fish market when terrorists threw a grenade and fired 40 rounds into the building at close range. All dived for cover among reeking fish, buckets and drains, emerging later soaked head to foot, but unharmed.

A British soldier guarding the padré fired back 30 rounds. In the Crescent shopping area, where the main road and backstreets were fenced off by barbed wire barricades, a grenade was thrown at a patrol, injuring an officer of The Lancashire Regiment.

An Arab boy was found injured, apparently by a sniper's bullet, in a street in Shaikh Othman by a British patrol. He was taken to hospital for treatment.

All service schools in Aden were closed today and families confined to their homes. Recreational facilities were also cancelled.

Aden report for Mr Brown

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Lord Shackleton, Minister without Portfolio, reported to Mr. Brown, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday on his recent visit to Aden.

He will be having further talks during the week with Mr. Brown, Mr. Thomson, Minister of State, Foreign Office, and with officials before a probable return to Aden next week.

It is understood that Foreign Office officials were also studying yesterday reports that Yemen had extended the limits of its territorial waters from three to 12 miles, and were considering whether the extension would affect the British islands of Kamaran and Perim, in the Red Sea.

Americans leave Yemen

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, MAY 1

The State Department announced today that the evacuation of American citizens from Yemen was completed over the weekend with the airlift of about 120 Americans and 35 other nationals out of the country.

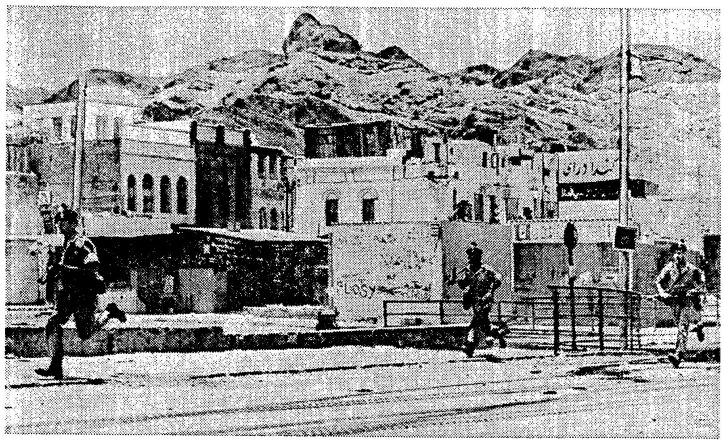
Two United States aid officials are still under arrest in Taiz for allegedly trying to blow up an ammunition dump there. The State Department has strongly denied the charge.

Lesotho talks

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

PRETORIA, MAY 1

Dr. Muller, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who returned to Pretoria on Saturday from west Germany where he attended the funeral of Dr. Adenauer, flew to Maseru today with officials for talks with Chief Jonathan Leabua, Prime Minister of Lesotho.



British soldiers of The Northumberland Fusiliers running through the streets of Crater, Aden, while under small-arms fire from terrorists.

Rhodesians' passports seized

SALISBURY, May 1.—The British consul in Frankfurt last week confiscated the passports of two prominent visiting Rhodesian businessmen, according to a statement issued here today.

The statement on behalf of Mr E. Newson, chairman of several important Rhodesian companies, and Commander Gordon Peters, managing director of Rhodesian Alloys Limited, said that the two men were told by their hotel manager in Frankfurt that their travel documents were "illegal for Germany". They were asked to call at the British consulate.

Soon afterwards the British consul and two vice-consuls called on them and pointed out that their passports, issued before independence, were the property of the British Government, which now wanted them back.

Two emergency passports, already made out in their names, were given to them valid for one journey directly back to Rhodesia.

Commander Peters said today that the British action was completely unexpected. He will apply for a Rhodesian passport.—*Reuter.*

A Foreign Office official confirmed yesterday that British consular officials in Germany had withdrawn the two passports, and he explained that the move was in line with the policy stated last year by Mr. Arthur Bottomley, then Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations.

Dutch clash over monarchy

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

AMSTERDAM, MAY 1

For several hours today Amsterdam police fought against thousands of mostly young left-wingers protesting against the transfer of the holiday celebrating the Queen's birthday from April 13 to May 1.

A demonstration was clearly directed against the monarchy and against the House of Orange, and there were many shouts for a republic. About 5,000 took part.

Afterwards the demonstrators gathered in Dam Square in front of the royal palace; the red flag was hoisted on the national monument

S AFRICAN WATCH ON 'NEO-NAZIS'

Rumoured visits by Bormann

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—JOHANNESBURG, MAY 1

Evidence that the recently formed South African branch of the west German National Democratic Party is coming under scrutiny by the authorities here was strengthened recently when its principal organizers were refused permission to hold a meeting in a Government building, the South African Cultural Centre.

This development followed an announcement that the N.P.D. leader, Herr Adolf von Thadden, is to make another visit to South Africa and persistent, if unconfirmed, reports that Martin Bormann, who has been sought as a war criminal for more than 20 years, has visited the republic twice.

The South African movement was formed under the title Deutscher Arbeitskreis Volkstreuerverbände in Sudafrika (German Labour Group of Nationally Loyal Associations in South Africa) but is now openly acknowledged to be a branch of the N.P.D., though its organizers still deny strongly that either it or the west German party is "neo-Nazi" in character.

Its headquarters are in Johannesburg, but meetings are said to have been held in private homes in various parts of the country. It is claimed that supporters number "several hundred" and include not only German nationals but South Africans, Scandinavians and even Englishmen.

Switched to hotel

The branch organized a public meeting for the eve of the anniversary of the birth of Hitler (April 20) at the South African Cultural Centre, which it had used previously. The centre is in the run-down Vrededorp quarter of Johannesburg and is controlled by the Department of Education.

At a late hour, however, the meeting had to be switched to an hotel in the cosmopolitan suburb of Hillbrow, which houses many Germans and other European immigrants.

The organizer, Mr. Oskar Scheffler, has pledged his support to Herr von Thadden and confirms that the party leader is to visit South Africa this year for the third time. His previous visits were in 1965 and 1966.

Even more disconcerting to South Africans generally is evidence, largely circumstantial, that Martin Bormann has been in this country twice in the past three years.

Reports of visits by Bormann have been collated by the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, whose chairman, Dr. Tobias Schneider, has called for vigilance against Nazi or anti-Semitic propaganda.

Bormann is reported to have been seen by a German woman at a social function in Cape Town last year. She described him as aging and corpulent but claimed to have identified him positively.

Mr Nyerere 'no communist'

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

DAR ES SALAAM, MAY 1

President Nyerere of Tanzania today told a mass rally of worker here that he was "not a communist". Dismissing as completely false allegations by people who had dubbed him communist, Mr. Nyerere said he differed with the communists in several ways.

"First, I believe in God while they do not and it is possible I differ with them on democracy", he stated. The President said, however, that on the question of exploitation he concurred completely. Exploiters had to be removed from Tanzania. They were just beginnning to shoot up

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DISPUTE I

After a strike lasting 60 days, the 3,200 workers in the metal industries of St. Nazaire, who are paid on a monthly basis, reached an agreement with the management early this morning on a number of the disputed issues.

A joint committee of representatives of employers and trade unionists began discussions on details a few hours afterwards.

The end of the strike, which also involved some 7,000 hourly workers, who came out in support of their comrades will be greeted by a sigh of relief on both sides, and by the Government, which had fruitlessly attempted to mediate some weeks ago.

Arabia accuses Egypt.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, May 02, 1967; pg. 6; Issue 56930.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS100887714

NO END OF A LESSON—3

France invites Britain to join the conspiracy

By Anthony Nutting, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, 1954-1956

On the morning of October 13, Mollet telegraphed to say that two emissaries would be descending on us on the following day with a message of the utmost importance for the Prime Minister. The emissaries were M. Albert Gazier, the Minister of Labour and acting Foreign Minister in Pineau's absence, and General Maurice Challe, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Air Force, who later figured prominently in the Algerian "Generals' Plot" against President de Gaulle. Their journey was to be in complete secrecy and to this end it was suggested that they should land on the military side of Northolt Airport and then proceed to Chequers rather than Downing Street for their talks.





The two Frenchmen who attended the secret meeting at Chequers. Left, M. Albert Gazier, and, right, General Maurice Challe.

Sunday, October 14, dawned as a glorious autumn day, radiant with sunshine and crisp as a biscuit. Yet as I drove down to Chequers I could not suppress a feeling of foreboding about the forthcoming encounter with Mollet's emissaries. At three o'clock the Frenchmen arrived and were escorted into the Prime Minister's study followed by Eden's Private Secretary and myself.

After the initial courtesies had been disposed of, Gazier opened the discussion with a further appeal that we should halt all Iraqi movements into Jordan. We were playing with fire, he said. Did we really want to risk provoking a situation in which we were on the opposite side to France at a time when our two countries should be at one in every sphere, and most especially in the Middle East?

I jumped in at this point to say that we had already pushed Nuri far enough. We had persuaded him to station his troops in north-east Jordan, to issue strict instructions that they were not to cross to the west bank of the Jordan River or in any way to present the smallest "threat" to Israel, and finally to send only a token force of battalion strength. We could not now forbid him to move at all. After all, the idea of sending Iraqi troops to reinforce Hussein had sprung from us and not from Nuri. But my arguments were in vain. For Eden, whose antennae had begun to sense that Gazier's appeal might be the prelude to some further and more "positive" proposal for joint Anglo-French action, cut me short by saying that he would, at any rate, ask Nuri to suspend his move temporarily.

Gazier then proceeded to ask us what would be Britain's reaction if Israel were to attack Egypt. Eden replied that this was a very difficult question. The Tripartite Declaration would presumably be invoked, and this would involve us.

"But would you resist Israel by force of arms?" Gazier asked.

To this Eden replied with a half-laugh that he could hardly see himself fighting for Colonel Nasser! Then, casting his mind back to the 1954 agreement about the Suez base, he turned to me and said: "Didn't your agreement say something about our not being obliged to send troops if Egypt was attacked by Israel?"

'OFF THE HOOK'

I replied that the agreement provided that our right to "reactivate" the base would only operate in the event of an attack on Egypt by an outside power and that Israel had been specifically excluded from the interpretation of an "outside power". But this provision only governed our rights to return to the base and did not in any way nullify our obligations under the Tripartite Declaration to resist any attack across the armistice borders of Israel and the Arab world.

Eden looked somewhat crestfallen at this. But a moment later he could scarcely contain his glee when Gazier reminded him that the Egyptians had recently contended that the Tripartite Declaration did not apply to Egypt, and that Egypt did not admit the right of its signatories to station troops on her territory merely to fulfil the obligations which they had undertaken in a declaration to which Egypt was not a party.

"So that lets us off the hook", Eden said excitedly. "We have no obligation, it seems, to stop the Israelis attacking the Egyptians."

I thought for a moment of arguing the obvious point that our obligations stemmed from the Tripartite Declaration itself and that, whatever Egypt might say, this meant that we had a peace-keeping role to play in the Middle East. But it seemed more important to find out what lay behind the French inquiry. So I asked Gazier what, if any, information he had that Israel was contemplating an attack on Egypt. For a moment or two he did not answer, but sat looking nervously at the private secretary, who was busily taking notes in the background. Then, when Eden had told his secretary to stop, Gazier said that he would like General Challe to speak.

Challe then proceeded to outline what he termed a possible plan of action for Britain and France to gain physical control of the Suez Canal. The plan, as he put it to us, was that Israel should be invited to attack Egypt across the Sinai Peninsula and that France and Britain, having given the Israeli forces enough time to seize all or most of Sinai, should then order "both sides" to withdraw their forces from the Suez Canal in order to permit an Anglo-French force to intervene and occupy the Canal on the pretext of saving it from damage by fighting. Thus the two powers would be able to claim to be "separating the combatants" and "extinguishing a dangerous fire", while actually seizing control of the entire waterway and of its terminal ports, Port Said and Suez. This would not only restore the running of the Canal to Anglo-French management, but, by putting us physically in control of the terminal ports—a position which Egypt had hitherto always held—it would enable us to supervise all shipping movements through the Canal and so to break the Egyptian blockade of Israel.

Nothing was said at this stage about the timing of these operations, although it was made fairly clear to us that the French wanted as little delay as possible. Likewise, the military plan was not discussed in any detail, Challe merely suggesting that a combined seaborne and paratroop invasion should suffice—the seaborne operation to take Port Said and the paratroops to seize Ismailia, headquarters of the Suez Canal administration and Suez. Nor did either Frenchman say definitely that the Israelis had agreed to play their allotted part. But from what Challe told us it was clear that the French had made at least preliminary soundings with the Israeli Government, and that they had been given enough encouragement to follow up with this inquiry as to our likely attitude.

EDEN'S MIND MADE UP

When Challe had finished his brief exposé, Gazier wound up by asking the Prime Minister to let the French Government know as soon as possible what he thought of the French plan.

Doing his best to conceal his excitement Eden replied noncommittally that he would give these suggestions very careful thought and would convey his reactions to Mollet early that week, after he had had an opportunity to discuss them with certain of his colleagues. He concluded by saying that he would probably send me to Paris on Tuesday with his answer.

On this note the meeting ended and the two Frenchmen left for Northolt. Not a word had been said about the Mystère deliveries to Israel [*Sir Gladwyn Jebb, the British Ambassador in Paris, had reported that the French had recently delivered 75 Mystère fighters to Israel*] and, when I suggested to Eden as the Frenchmen were leaving that he should at least ask whether the story was true he brushed me aside, saying that everything had been superseded by what we had just been told. I knew then that, no matter what contrary advice he might receive over the next 48 hours, the Prime Minister had already made up his mind to go along with the French plan. . . .

In all my political association with Eden I had never found so unbridgable a gulf between us. And as we returned to his study after saying goodbye to our visitors, I was at a loss to know how to tackle him. Deciding to play for time, I proposed that we sleep on the Challe plan, and that on the following day I should call a meeting of senior Foreign Office officials to discuss it. I also suggested that no decision should be taken until the Foreign Secretary had returned to London and had been given time to weigh the French proposition against what he had achieved in New York. He was not due back until the middle of the week, having agreed to discuss with Hammarskjold the arrangements for the meeting in Geneva on October 29, which was to spell out the agreement with Fawzi. This was hardly a suitable matter to put in a telegram to New York. Should we not therefore postpone our reply to Mollet until Lloyd could be put properly in the picture?

But Eden would brook no delay. The Foreign Secretary must come home at once if he was to be consulted. And with that he was on the telephone a few moments later telling Lloyd to drop everything and return to London by the next plane. Lloyd objected that he had other commitments, but eventually agreed to return the following evening, arriving in London at midday on Tuesday. Meanwhile, the Private Secretary was told to organize a small meeting of Ministers for Tuesday morning. I was to represent the Foreign Secretary, until he should arrive in person. Meanwhile, I was to consult only two senior Foreign Office officials. My suggestion that at least the Foreign Office Legal Adviser, Sir Edward Fitzmaurice, should be brought in on a matter which involved taking the law into our own hands met with the flattest of negatives. "Fitz is the last person I want consulted", Eden retorted. "The lawyers are always against our doing anything. For God's sake, keep them out of it. This is a political affair."

The decks were being cleared for action, and it was plain that, whatever consultations I might hold with the Foreign Office advisers and however strongly they might support me in warning against this venture, the Prime Minister was not going to be gainsaid. Nothing was now to be done which might upset Israel or divert her attention from the main target, Nasser's Egypt. And before I left Chequers, Eden had insisted that Nuri be told not to move any Iraqi troops into Jordan. When I remonstrated that Nuri would be exasperated by all this order and counter-order and would be more suspicious than ever about our motives, he replied, "Do you want Israel to attack Jordan?" To which I retorted somewhat acidly, "I thought our policy was to prevent Israel attacking anybody."

The following day, Monday, October 15, I conferred with the two officials whom I told of the Gazier-Challe visit to Chequers. The more we discussed the French scheme, the less we could see a single argument in favour of going along with this sordid manoeuvre.

Nutting armed himself with what seemed an overwhelming case against the French plan for the meeting which assembled at No. 10 on the following day. But his arguments were of no avail.

LLOYD THE LAST HOPE

My only hope now lay with Lloyd. He appeared, looking deceptively fresh after his exertions in New York and a sleepless night in the air. Drawing him aside, I told him what was afoot and what advice I had given on behalf of the Foreign Office. His reaction was spontaneous. "You are right," he said. "We must have nothing to do with the French plan."

But my relief at this emphatic response was very short-lived. For in effect the issue had already been decided, whatever the Foreign Secretary might say or feel.

My last hope of averting catastrophe was slipping away. Nothing could now stop Eden going along with the Challe plan. And to crown everything I was to be the messenger of his acceptance. There was nothing more to be said. All that remained was for me to ask what precisely I should tell the French when I arrived in Paris that afternoon. To this the Prime Minister replied that he had decided to go to Paris himself, accompanied by Lloyd. There could, of course, be no question of his going in secret, as I was to have done; but there was no harm in this, he continued, nor need there be any undue speculation about his journey. On the contrary, there was a lot to be gained by showing that Britain and France were continuing to consult together at the highest level.

I made one last desperate attempt to button-hole Lloyd before he set off for Paris. But in vain; Eden insisted on his staying to lunch at No. 10, and I returned alone to nurse my forebodings at the Foreign Office. I managed to reach Lloyd by telephone before he left for the airport, but he was in no mood to listen to my pleadings. Eden had clearly used the lunch interval to devastating effect, for Lloyd not only seemed prepared to acquiesce in the French plan, but now took it for granted that his agreement with Fawzi would never hold.

NO RECORD OF TALKS

The next day I sought Lloyd out to inquire what had taken place in Paris. He was evasive at first, saying that the talks had been so secret that only the Prime Ministers and Foreign Secretaries had been present and no record had been made. But under cross-examination he admitted that Eden had confirmed his wholehearted endorsement of the French plan and that further consultations would take place in Paris between French and Israeli representatives. He hoped that we would not have to be directly associated with these talks, at any rate at the political level; but he could not rule this out, as there were a number of crucial political as well as military problems involving us which would have to be settled in a very short space of time. Lloyd added that the French had clearly been in cahoots with the Israelis for several weeks.

I have seldom seen a man more confused and unhappy than Lloyd was on this occasion. But, since it was clear that he had lost control of the situation and that he was no more able than I to stop Eden plunging ahead, there was nothing to be gained by further argument. All I could do, and this I did, was to tell him very solemnly that, if we went through with this plan, I would have to resign. This would be a bitter experience for me, but I could not stay in the Government if it meant being a party to this sordid conspiracy. And I hoped that he would tell the Prime Minister of what I had said.

Lloyd gave a nervous laugh and, as was his habit when embarrassed, sought refuge in a facetious joke. "There's only one worse thing than having a yes-man on one's team, and that's having a no-man like you", he said.

Tomorrow: The fatal decision.

These extracts are taken from Mr. Nutting's book, No End of a Lesson, *the Story of Suez, which will be published on July 3 by Constable, price 25s.*

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France invites Britain to join the conspiracy.
By Anthony Nutting, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, May 02, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56930.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS186084514

Into Egypt– a fateful decision

"I felt sick to the pit of my stomach", Anthony Nutting recalls, when he heard of the Cabinet's irretrievable decision to attack Egypt and advance to the Suez Canal.

In the fourth extract of his book, *No End of a Lesson*, which appears today on page 10, Mr. Nutting, then Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, tells also of his meeting with Selwyn Lloyd after the fateful move. "I cannot stay in the Government if this sordid conspiracy is carried out", he told Lloyd. "I feel badly enough as it is, knowing what I know and being unable to do anything about it."

Eisenhower was kept completely in the dark about the decision. Eden treated him as an unreliable ally after his inflamed outbursts when Eden first confessed that war seemed to be the solution.

But Eisenhower's shrewd suspicions later proved well founded.

Into Egypt a fateful decision.
The Times (London, England),Wednesday, May 03, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56931.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS18836643

ADEN EXODUS OF FAMILIES

Britain keeps to timetable

From NICHOLAS HERBERT, Beirut, May 2

Britain today began withdrawing the wives and children of Servicemen from Aden as a prelude to total withdrawal in perhaps eight months. By the end of July "Operation Relative" will have removed 8,000 dependants.

The security authorities decided today that this timetable need not be accelerated as a result of the threat by the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (Flosy) against British women and children.

The threat, which came after the death of seven Arab children in Sunday's land-mine disaster, was made by the Peoples' Organization of Revolutionary Forces of Flosy, (Porf), which Britain claims is directly controlled from Egypt.

In the light of it, Major-General Sir John Willoughby, the security commander, held a careful review today of security procedures and the schools remained mostly closed, but an announcement later said that it would not be necessary to rush the families home.

The authorities maintain that this could be done in ten days but would lead to considerable confusion. "Operation Relative", on the other hand, has been worked out with meticulous care to cause the minimum disruption

There has been no rush to get seats on early aircraft, apparently because the wives prefer to be on the spot, knowing what is happening, rather than to worry from a distance. It is also true that things in Aden often seem worse in the newspapers than on the ground, not because of any sensationalism, but because most British families are effectively isolated from Crater and Shaikh Othman, the two main areas of trouble.

ADEN, May 2.—The phased withdrawal of families began tonight when a VC-10 aircraft with 41 women, 10 babies, 37 older children and 10 Servicemen whose tour of duty has expired left the RAF airfield for Gatwick.

A further 200 passengers included in the scheme were due to leave tonight by sea.—*Reuter.*

Faults found in Apollo craft

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, MAY 2

The General Electric Company has submitted a confidential report to the National Space Agency citing a host of serious workmanship flaws in the Apollo spacecraft prepared at Cape Kennedy for an unmanned test flight later this year.

The reported flaws include damaged parts, corroded valves, leaky pipes and three small holes in the capsule's heat shield that, the document said, "could have catastrophic implications" during the vehicle's return through the atmosphere to a splashdown.

General Electric, as a contractor, has been engaged by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to inspect the Apollo spacecraft systems before launching.

The report, referred to more than 1,300 "discrepancies" in the 20 miles of electrical wiring in the new spacecraft.

Mr. George C. White, the agency's reliability director at the head-

Aden Exodus Of Families.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, May 03, 1967; pg. 7; Issue 56931.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS118320291

NO END OF A LESSON—A

The Cabinet decides to go ahead with French plan

By ANTHONY NUTTING, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, 1954-1956

In London and Paris the Suez plot was thickening. On the morning of Monday, October 22, I asked to see Lloyd, and was told that he was laid low with a bad cold. When I suggested that I should telephone him, his Private Secretary told me he was not taking any calls. I thought it a little odd that Lloyd, who always enjoyed robust health, should be making such a fuss about a minor ailment at such a time as this. Nevertheless, I let it go, saying I would speak to him the next day. Then on the following morning I tried again and was told that Lloyd wanted to see me.

"How's the cold?" I asked as I entered his room.

For a moment he hesitated and then, looking like a schoolboy caught in some mischief, he said, "Oh! The cold! Yes. Well, I never had one. I went to see Ben Gurion outside Paris."

Then before I could stutter out any comment, he added, "And you, my dear Anthony, will no doubt be delighted to hear that it doesn't now look as if the French plan will come off." He explained this by saying that Ben Gurion had developed grave misgivings. In the first place, he and his military advisers did not like the military plans, which did not provide adequate air cover for the Israelis. He wanted to be assured that we would "take out" the Egyptian Air Force as soon as Israeli forces began their attack. If there were any delay in doing this, Tel Aviv and other Israeli cities might be obliterated by Nasser's Ilyushin bombers. But, since the essence of the Anglo-French role in the plan was to intervene only after Egypt had refused to withdraw her forces to the west bank of the Canal, we could not undertake to destroy Nasser's Air Force simultaneously with the Israeli invasion of Sinai. There would have to be an interval to allow Egypt time to reject our ultimatum.

Ben Gurion's anxiety

Secondly, Ben Gurion was reluctant to become involved in the Suez dispute, although he was keen to take some action to crush once and for all the Egyptian *fedayeen* threat to Israel and to remove the Egyptian blockade of the Gulf of Akaba, which prevented Israel bringing supplies to her back door. Finally, he was not convinced that Britain would give him real support and was therefore reluctant to become our stalking-horse. France might show willing, but Britain seemed to be too tied up with the Arab world—Jordan and Iraq especially. The French Ministers had pressed him very hard to fall into line, but he had refused to give any undertakings.

I did not conceal my feelings of relief at this news. But Lloyd brought me up short with a reminder that, whatever now befell the French plan, the Government would still have to decide how to settle the Suez question. Was it to be peace or war?

"And what will be your advice to the colleagues?" I asked, hoping that he might say that, in his view, we should go back to the New York agreement with Fawzi.

But to my consternation he replied, "I really don't know. I am so confused and exhausted that I honestly have no advice to offer any more. It would really be better to leave it to a group of the colleagues, such as Derry Heathcoat Amory or Patrick Buchan-Hepburn to decide. They are not only fresher, but probably wiser too than I am."

A terrible load

Looking back on this exchange, I must confess to some regret that I did not show more compassion for a man who was labouring under a terrible load. But at the time all I could think of was that at all costs we must not cast aside all the work which Lloyd himself had done to bring about a peaceful settlement. And so I flung at him that I had never thought that I would live to hear a British Foreign Secretary make such a confession at such a crucial moment of decision. More calmly, I asked when the decision would be made, and was told that the Cabinet would meet the next day.

When I saw Lloyd on the evening of October 23 he told me that the Prime Minister was greatly put out about the meeting with Ben Gurion. He wanted to press the French to make another attempt to bring the Israelis into line, and had asked Mollet to send Pineau to London for further talks that same evening. Once again these took place without advisers being present or an official record being taken. But when I spoke to Lloyd the following morning it was clear that Eden's enthusiasm for the French plan had waxed stronger than ever. Pineau had returned to Paris with an assurance that Israel need have no fears of being left in the lurch and that, if she led the way with an attack on Sinai, Britain would lend her fullest support.

That day the Cabinet met in full to take the fateful decision. It proved impossible to come to a final conclusion at one session, and the matter was held over until the following day (October 25). But this did not prevent hte dispatch to Paris of a senior Foreign Office official with further assurances for the French to pass on to the Israelis that we were determined to see the French plan carried out and would do all that the Israelis required in the way of air strikes against Egyptian airfields to forestall the bombing of their cities.

These assurances turned the scale. Eden learned that the Israelis had decided to play their part in the Sinai campaign. That afternoon the Cabinet came to its final and for some at least probably unpalatable decision. When Lloyd returned to the Foreign Office from No. 10, I did not have to ask how it had gone. It showed in his face and, though he made a brave attempt to be light-hearted, I had never seen him more grim-faced and tormented with doubts.

"When is it to happen?" I asked.

"October 29; next Monday", Lloyd answered. "Israel will attack through Sinai that evening and the following morning we and the French will issue our ultimatum to her and Egypt to clear the Canal Zone for us to move our troops in. Egypt will, presumably, refuse, and directly she does so we shall start bombing Egyptian airfields."

Drafting the ultimatum

This would eliminate Nasser's bomber force and so protect Israel from air attacks and prevent the harassing of the Israeli advance. The Israelis expected to complete the occupation of Sinai within seven to 10 days by means of a four-pronged attack. Three prongs, including a parachute drop near Suez itself, were to concentrate on seizing the Canal Zone between Suez and Ismalia and sealing off the Gaza Strip, while the fourth prong plunged southwards to seize Sharm es-Sheikh, the Egyptian fortified



President Eisenhower and his Secretary of State, Foster Dulles. "No one was kept more completely in the dark than the President of the United States . . . he was treated as an unreliable ally."

position commanding the Tiran Straits at the entrance to the Gulf of Akaba. These plans would give time for the British and French forces to move from their bases in Malta to the seizure of Port Said, from where they would advance south to Suez.

"And now?" Lloyd concluded, "I must call a meeting to draft the ultimatum which we shall be sending out. You are welcome to stay and help us if you'd like to."

So this was it. I felt sick to the pit of my stomach. And for once this loquacious politician was almost speechless.

Time to resign

"You seem to have forgotten our talk of last week", I said. "Or perhaps you did not take me seriously. But I meant what I said. I cannot stay in the Government if this sordid conspiracy is carried out. You can draft your own ultimatum without me. I will not be a party to your policy any longer. I feel badly enough as it is, knowing what I know and being unable to do anything about it."

"I have not forgotten what you told me," Lloyd replied. "On the contrary, I have talked to Anthony about you. He's very put out, of course, but he doesn't want to lose you, and if you feel you cannot stay at the Foreign Office, he'd be very willing to give you some other department."

I said that I was sorry, but this would not solve my problem. I wished to stay at the Foreign Office as long as it was possible to prevent this crazy manoeuvre being carried out. But if all my efforts failed I could not remain a Minister in the Foreign Office or any other department. Meanwhile, for appearances' sake, I said that I would continue to come to the Foreign Office and, if I could be of any help in dealing with problems other than Suez, I would be glad to do so. With that I left and returned to my office.

There can be few, if any, lonelier moments in a politician's life than the moment of resignation. Suddenly and inevitably, he is bereft of friends, a castaway adrift on a sea of anger and recrimination, an object of distrust, a man who has committed the cardinal crime of disloyalty to the team. So isolated is he that he begins to doubt himself. High ideals begin to fade in a mist of uncertainty. And he becomes torn between loyalty to principle and loyalty to friends and associates. Perhaps it is easier if he feels angry or bitter against his colleagues. But I could call on no such emotional aids. I felt no anger; only sadness that Ministers, and in particular Eden, who had always in the past seemed such a model of integrity in public affairs, should now debase our standards of international behaviour by this disreputable manoeuvre.

The issue simplified

Yet although I could not call on anger to support my decision and quell my doubts, there was one member of the Cabinet in whom I felt I could confide—Walter Monckton. Despite the difference in our ages—I had been at Cambridge with his son—he and I had become close friends since the formation of the Government in 1951, and I knew of no one who would give me sounder advice. Since he was strongly of the same view as myself, I knew too that he would respect my confidence and would not try to talk me out of going merely for Eden's sake. I therefore hurried across to see him at his room in the House of Commons. I was not disappointed.

"I know how torn you must feel", Monckton said. "But really your problem is quite simple. You are Minister of State and our representative at the U.N. General Assembly. You are not Minister of Pensions, with no knowledge of what is afoot and no obligation other than to vote in the division lobby. You know as much, and probably more than, most members of the Cabinet and with that knowledge you will be called upon, if you stay, to defend in Parliament and at the U.N. the action which the Government is going to take. Can you do it?"

I felt as if a great load had been taken off my back. The issue which had become so tangled through the conflict of loyalties was now simplified. I knew that I could not defend the Government in Parliament or anywhere else. The action which they were about to take would be a breach of the U.N. Charter, of the Tripartite Declaration and of the agreement with Egypt which I had negotiated and signed almost exactly two years before. And on top of everything else, it would be the result of a squalid piece of collusion with Israel which would have to be denied, even though the denial would be as transparent as glass to any thinking person. Therefore, though loyalty to colleagues still tore at my emotions, they no longer pricked my conscience or blurred my judgment. I had no alternative but to resign as from the moment when Britain began operations against Egypt.

Before we parted, Monckton and I discussed at some length what had brought about this nightmarish situation and, in particular, what had happened to transform Eden so completely. He made no bones about his view that Eden was a very sick man. He had always been excitable and temperamental, but in the last few months he had seemed to be on the



M. Pineau, the French Foreign Minister, who came to London for private talks on the evening of October 23 before the British Cabinet made its decision.

verge of a breakdown. Monckton said that he would dearly like to resign himself. But, as a member of the Cabinet, his departure at this stage might topple the Government, with incalculable consequences for all concerned. He would, however, get out as soon as he could.

Perhaps the most difficult part of those nightmarish 48 hours that preceded the Israeli attack lay in trying not to show my feelings of impending doom to my family and friends. Inevitably, the Suez issue was a never-ending topic of conversation on which almost everyone had views and advice to offer to one in my position. "Why don't you do this? Why don't you try that?" friends would say. And all the time I longed to scream at them to shut up because we had decided what to do, and it was lunacy.

Preserving secrecy

From the moment when Eden decided to go along with the Franco-Israeli conspiracy, the most elaborate precautions were taken to preserve absolute secrecy, even to the point of misleading our friends and "enemies" alike.

As part of our cover plan, and to heighten the impression that Israel was about to attack Jordan, it had been agreed with the French and Israelis that, as and when Israel began to mobilize her forces, feint concentrations should be made near the Jordanian border, after the rumour had been spread by the Israeli Military Intelligence that Iraqi forces had entered Jordan. At this point we were to "warn" the Israelis that an attack on Jordan would bring into play the Anglo-Jordan Treaty. This, it was felt, would not only put Nasser off his guard, but would also enable us to pose as true "peacekeepers" in the Middle East.

Nobody was kept more completely in the dark than the President of the United States. After Eden's initial confession that he wanted war had provoked Eisenhower to indignant protests, the President was treated as an unreliable ally. The more he warned Eden that American and world opinion would not support him if he appeared to be trying to browbeat a smaller nation into submission, the more determined Eden became to conceal his hand from the Americans.

When the first reports of Israeli troop movements reached Washington, together with a suggestion that since the October 16 meeting in Paris, Britain had become involved with France and Israel, the President sent for our Chargé d'Affaires (the Ambassador Sir Roger Makins, being on leave at the time) and expressed his grave anxiety about the possibility of a flare-up. Eisenhower hinted broadly that the State Department suspected that something was brewing between the French and the Israelis. Over the past several days there had been a considerable increase in cypher traffic between Paris and Tel Aviv, and every American inquiry in either capital had been very obviously fobbed off.

Even after Israeli forces had actually launched their attack on Egypt, we continued to pull the wool over American eyes. Before 10 o'clock on the following morning the United States Ambassador, Winthrop Aldrich, called on Lloyd at the Foreign Office. But he had no more success in eliciting our true intentions than had the President. The Americans were still to be told nothing until after we and the French had delivered our ultimatum. Aldrich was duly fobbed off with a lot of talk about the efforts we had made to restrain Israel from attacking Jordan. And the first that he was to know of our ultimatum to the belligerents was from a news agency report which reached him as he was about to leave his Embassy for the Foreign Office to receive the official text later that afternoon.

'No time to consult'

Meanwhile, Eden sent a message to Eisenhower in which he said not one word about the Anglo-French ultimatum to Egypt and Israel which was to be delivered that day, and spoke only of the dangers which the fighting might bring to the Canal and of the need for decisive action to stop hostilities. He added that instructions were being sent to our representative on the Security Council to join with his American colleague in requesting an immediate Council meeting. The only suggestion that Britain was contemplating further action was contained in the final sentence: "Experience, however, shows that its (the Security Council's) procedure is unlikely to be either rapid or effective." And the later telegram in which Eisenhower was informed of our intentions was not sent until after the ultimatum had been delivered and its terms publicly announced. Thus Eden made sure that America could not intervene at the last minute to prevent our going ahead.

The excuse given for this extraordinary procedure between allies was that there was no time to consult Washington and that in any case we hesitated to invite the Americans to associate themselves with the Anglo-French ultimatum in view of "the constitutional and other difficulties" inhibiting the commitment of the United States to action such as we and the French proposed to take—in other words, the need to consult Congress.

But Eisenhower was not to be mollified by these excuses and explanations. He had been duped in an unforgivable way, and both he and his Government colleagues were very angry indeed. So angry were they that, when the Security Council met on the morrow of the Israeli attack, the American delegate, Henry Cabot Lodge, refused to heed the pleas for time made by his British colleague, Sir Pierson Dixon, and insisted on pressing his resolution demanding an Israeli withdrawal to an immediate vote, thus ranging the United States publicly and unequivocally against Britain and France. Nor was this the end of the story. For not only did Lodge subsequently maintain his indignation towards the British delegation, ignoring all our requests for compromise in the debates which followed in the General Assembly, but when Eden and Mollet invited themselves to Washington for talks with Eisenhower, after the fighting had ended in the Canal Zone, they met with an unprecedented rebuff.

Tomorrow: At war.

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The Cabinet decides to go ahead with French plan.
By ANTHONY NUTTING, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. 1954-1956

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, May 03, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56931.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS167996579

Suez venture 'disturbed Churchill'

Sir Winston Churchill was gravely disturbed by the Suez venture, according to Lord Stuart of Findhorn, who, as Mr. James Stuart, resigned from the Government in 1957 over Suez.

In his autobiography, *Within the Firing*, published today (The Bodley Head, 30s.), Lord Stuart writes: "I did not object to our going in; what I did object to was our coming out."

The book continues: "Winston Churchill, after his retirement, never interfered with his successor (Sir Anthony Eden) and never expressed a view unless asked, but I know that he was gravely disturbed by the Suez venture."

'You were right'

Lord Stuart recalls: "Winston lumbered into my room in the Commons and slumped down into the only armchair, looking like a rather unhappy hippopotamus. He never mentioned a name, nor did he even refer specifically to Egypt or the Canal. All he said was: 'You were quite right'."

Of the deterioration of relations with the United States as a result of Suez, Lord Stuart says: "The issue as I see it was wider than Suez itself. We had supported the United States in Korea . . . the object was to oppose the spread of communism, just as it is the aim of the U.S. in the East today—an object in which they have in principle our support.

"In logic, I cannot see why we were wrong in Egypt if the Americans are right now in the hard battle they are fighting in Vietnam. Perhaps a historian of the future will explain it all later but it won't help me any. I shall be dead."

Today's extracts from *No End of a Lesson*, **page 10.**

Suez venture 'disturbed Churchill'.
The Times (London, England),Thursday, May 04, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56932.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67595428

President Nasser accuses U S

'Using economic pressure'

From NICHOLAS HERBERT, Beirut, May 3

The United States is on the move in the Middle East. The American Friends of the Middle East (A.F.M.E.) have been turned out of Syria, the Agency for International Development (A.I.D.). has left Yemen, and the Sixth Fleet, it now seems quite possible, may have to put off a planned visit to Lebanon.

The Central Intelligence Agency (C.I.A.), that invaluable butt of May Day orators, is seen as the villain of the piece and President Nasser, of the United Arab Republic, last night bestowed upon the United States the accolade of "main antagonist".

Apart from being allegedly behind all the aforementioned institutions, the C.I.A. has been charged with recruiting King Husain of Jordan, taking over Amman radio, and expressing the hope that Field-Marshal Abdul Hakim Amer, the Egyptian First Vice-President, would die during a recent appendix operation.

Two State Department officials now visiting the area have been told in Damascus that the American power which "they wave in the face of the masses", can no longer shake the people's confidence.

Economic pressure

Imminent victory is forecast over the tapline company, which recently began negotiations with the Syrians on oil pipeline royalties. Small wonder the United States says it will stay out of Aden.

However, the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco) has announced that production went up by 18 per cent last year, putting Saudi Arabia in third place, behind the United States and Venezuela, among the free world's oil producers.

Controversy continues to surround attempts to put the American R.C.A. Corporation on the boycott list (because its equipment is in such wide use in the Middle East), and even the Syrian Ministry of Petroleum has imported two oil rigs from the United States.

All this, and more no doubt, stands behind President Nasser's allegation in his speech last night that the United States was trying to exert economic pressure on the United Arab Republic and was waging a psychological war against Egypt in other Arab countries. It is, perhaps, no more than a super power might expect in this power-conscious part of the world, but it is a reminder of how important the play of external influences is in the Arab political scene.

Baghdad agreement

Oil is behind much of this, and it was announced today that the Iraq Petroleum Company had reached agreement in principle with the Government in Baghdad on the royalties payable for the first quarter of this year, when the pipeline across Syria was idle.

Mr. Christopher Dalley, the managing director of I.P.C., has been in Baghdad for the talks, in which Iraq has been demanding £40m., while the company was offering £22m.

Agreement may help to stabilize the situation in Iraq, where it seemed recently that pressure on the Government might tempt Baghdad to reopen the quarrel with Kuwait. A commission to deal with their border problems is to meet in the autumn and the recent tension appears to have subsided for a while.

U Thant coming to Britain

FROM OUR UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, MAY 3

U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, will meet the Prime Minister and other British leaders for talks when he spends the better part of a week in Britain towards the end of the month. He is to be the guest of the Government.

U Thant arrives in London on May 18, leaves for Brussels on May 22, and returns two days later.

President Nasser accuses U S.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Thursday, May 04, 1967; pg. 6; Issue 56932.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS100887716

NO END OF A LESSON—5

'Hard to find a more disingenuous pronouncement by a Minister'

Labour Opposition smells a rat over Israel assurances

By ANTHONY NUTTING, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, 1954-1956

On the afternoon of October 29, 1956, Israeli forces crossed into Sinai and began their attack on Egypt.

On the following morning Mollet and Pineau flew to London for the ostensible purpose of discussing the "grave issues" posed by the Israeli invasion and drawing up the terms of the Anglo-French ultimatum to the belligerents. This document, which had, of course, been prepared five days earlier, began by calling upon both sides to stop fighting and to withdraw their forces to a distance of ten miles on each side of the Suez Canal. And it concluded with the demand addressed solely to the Egyptians that Anglo-French forces should be allowed to move "temporarily" into key positions at Port Said, Ismailia and Suez. Egypt and Israel were to be given 12 hours to reply to these demands. And if after the time-limit had expired, one or both had not undertaken to comply, notice was served that British and French forces would intervene in whatever strength might be necessary to seize the Canal and its terminal ports by force of arms.

Ultimatum delivered

The talks with Mollet and Pineau, which began at lunch-time, finished at 4 p.m. A quarter of an hour later the joint ultimatum was duly delivered at the Foreign Office to the Egyptian Ambassador and the Israeli Chargé d'Affaires. Telegrams were also sent to Sir Humphrey Trevelyan in Cairo and Sir John Nicholls in Tel Aviv instructing them to take parallel action with the Egyptian and Israeli Governments. Fawzi has since told me that in all his diplomatic experience he never saw an ambassador so shocked and bewildered by his instructions. Ordinarily he would not have believed that in such an obvious conspiracy Britain's representative had been kept completely in the dark. But everything about Trevelyan's manner made it crystal clear that he had been taken completely by surprise by the Anglo-French ultimatum and had in no way been privy to the plot which was now being unfolded.

At 4.30 on October 30 the terms of the Anglo-French ultimatum to Egypt and Israel were announced to the House of Commons. Seldom in Parliamentary history can there have been a more tendentious pronouncement by a Prime Minister purporting to give the facts of a grave international crisis. To begin with, Eden attributed the entire blame for the recent tension on the Arab-Israeli borders to Egyptian actions—*fedayeen* raids, threatening speeches, the blockade of the Canal against Israeli shipping, and the formation of the joint military command between Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. He went on to take credit for the warning given to Israel when reports of Israeli mobilization reached London, which had resulted in assurances that the Israelis would not attack Jordan. And when he came to report on the Israeli invasion of Sinai, he painted in the most lurid hues the dangers which the fighting posed for shipping in the Suez Canal and for the Canal itself.

Not a word did he say about the repeated massive attacks by Israeli forces on their Arab neighbours, such as the raid on Qalqilya in Jordan on October 10, which resulted in the slaughter of defenceless civilians. Nor did he allow any longer—as he had contended so strongly when Foreign Secretary in Churchill's Government—that Egypt had a case under Article 10 of the Constantinople Convention to deny the use of the Canal to Israeli ships. And when he was asked why Britain had not acted in accordance with the Tripartite Declaration, he contended that Egypt's attitude to the declaration had been "equivocal", and that in any case there was nothing in the Tripartite Declaration which precluded Britain from acting as she proposed to do!

Right to send troops

Later he was to embroider on this by saying that, since Fawzi had recently made it clear to our Ambassador that Egypt did not regard the declaration as giving Britain, France or America any contractual right to send troops into Egypt, Egypt had forfeited any right to protection under the terms of the Declaration. In fact, Fawzi had said no more than all Israel's other Arab neighbours had contended when, after the Declaration was issued in 1950, they affirmed that they could not admit any act under its terms "tending towards encroachment on their sovereignty and independence".

Never before had he claimed that Egypt was not covered by this guarantee. Yet now he was trying to twist things so that, instead of going to the aid of the victim of an aggression, we would claim the right to assist the aggressor by attacking his victim. Instead of acting under the terms of the Tripartite Declaration "to resist any attempt to change the existing armistice frontiers between Israel and the Arab States by force of arms", we were actively encouraging such a change by offering to lend the force of our own arms to that of Israel's.

Perilously thin case

Later that evening Eden went even further. Ignoring what I had told him at Chequers in front of Gazier and Challe, he insisted that the provision in the 1954 Agreement that we had no automatic right to occupy our Suez base if Israel invaded Egypt could only mean that Egypt did not want the Tripartite Declaration applied to her, if she were attacked by Israel.

From the very beginning, therefore, the Government's case looked perilously thin. And it was hardly helped when later in the first day's debate Mr. Selwyn Lloyd gave much of the show away with a careless retort to an interruption by Denis Healey. Dealing with the question of who was the aggressor between Israel and Egypt, Healey asked why, when Israel launched the raid on Qalqilya a few weeks earlier, claiming that the action was a reprisal for attacks on her territory stemming from Jordan, the Government had hastened to condemn Israel in the strongest terms. Falling straight into the trap, Lloyd replied that "the situation between Jordan and Israel is quite different from the situation between Egypt and Israel". And when this remark was greeted with laughter, he went on to explain himself by saying that Jordan, unlike Egypt, presented no threat to Israel.



R.A.F. crews reporting in Malta after one of the bombing raids which knocked out Egyptian airfields shortly after Israeli troops invaded Sinai.

Small wonder that the Labour Opposition began almost immediately to smell a rat. At this early stage in the parliamentary battle, no Front Bench spokesman for the Opposition had yet mentioned the word "collusion". But from the back benches two former Ministers, John Hynd and Christopher Mayhew, were not so reticent. Noticing the emphasis placed by the Prime Minister on the assurances given by Israel that she would not attack Jordan, Hynd suggested that "we were in discussion with the Israeli authorities about their intention to invade Egypt". And Mayhew later felt that the Government were "using this opportunity to fulfil their long-cherished designs to regain control of the Suez Canal . . . they are trying to link up the Israeli incursion with the Suez problem". No reply was made to these suggestions beyond a request by Eden to the Labour leaders not to "impugn our motives". And for the most part the debate on this first day was conducted in a relatively quiet and sombre atmosphere with the main issue turning on the Opposition's plea for an undertaking by the Government not to carry out the proposed Anglo-French intervention until the Security Council, which was then in emergency session, had come to a decision. This plea was, of course, rejected by Eden and Lloyd, both of whom made much of the argument that the Security Council was paralysed by the veto.

Faced with this stubborn refusal, the Labour Opposition divided the House at the end of the debate. Then, only an hour after this division had taken place, Britain was herself to paralyse the Security Council and prevent an immediate decision by casting her veto, together with France, against the American cease-fire resolution, which was endorsed by seven of the 11 members of the Security Council.

Vetoes at the UN

My warnings to my colleagues about isolating ourselves from the rest of the world were coming true all too rapidly. Of all the many twists and turns that British policy took during the Suez crisis, there were few which affected me more deeply than the casting of our two vetoes in that Security Council debate. Up till that moment we had a record second to none in the United Nations; and I felt a measure of personal pride that, even on such difficult colonial issues as Cyprus, where sometimes no American support was forthcoming to pull the large block of Latin American nations into line with us, we had always managed in the end to persuade the majority of member states to accept our word and to trust in our good faith to work out a just and peaceful solution. Now all that was spoiled; and our record bore an ugly stain. We had failed to carry any sort of majority with us, because we were acting against all our traditions and seemed more concerned to offer encouragement and excuses for the aggressor than to join in effective action to stop his aggression. We had done as the Russians had done, no less than 78 times since the U.N. was started, and were themselves about to do yet again, when four days later the Security Council voted to condemn their brutal suppression of the Hungarian rebellion. But, unlike the Russians, we were not going to get away with it.

The ultimatum to Egypt and Israel having expired in the small hours of October 31, I sent in my letter of resignation to the Prime Minister as soon as I reached the Foreign Office that same morning. Within minutes of its arrival a call came from No. 10 asking me to go and see Eden after lunch in his room at the House of Commons. I do not think I have dreaded an interview more than this one, fearing as I did that he would put pressure on me to stay in the Government, perhaps by switching to another department.

As it turned out, my fears were groundless. Eden's first words were that he knew me too well to try to persuade me to change my mind. Still it was a painful encounter. I had not seen him since the day when I had deputized for Lloyd at the first ministerial meeting that considered the French plan. (In those days he had no time for those who did not see eye to eye with him.) And I began by reminding him of what I had said then and added that I was more than ever convinced that his policy was wrong and would lead to disaster. Even if it succeeded, I could not condone our collusion. Apart from the moral aspect, we should convince the entire Arab world that they had been right all along in believing that we had created Israel as a beach-head from which we would one day return to reestablish ourselves in the Middle East. What we were doing now seemed to me to be contrary to everything which he had always stood for—and hence taught me—during his political life.

Eden's only reply to this was that he thought I would be more concerned with the threat to Jordan than with the attack on Egypt. But when I pointed out that the threat to Jordan had been invented by us to cover our tracks, he did not pursue the argument. And as I looked him in the eye, he looked away. Already, I felt, he knew that he was beaten, having tried and failed to act out of character. He was too astute a Parliamentarian not to see the succession of pitfalls before him in the debates that were to ensue in the House of Commons. Even if the military operations were to succeed in Suez, he would have an almost impossible task explaining himself to Parliament and in



Mr. Ben Gurion.

particular in answering the charge of collusion. And it was almost in desperation that he asked me to agree that my resignation should be kept secret until the Parliamentary storm that was brewing had passed.

I said that, if it would help him at all, I would certainly agree to the announcement being delayed for as long as possible, but I warned him that it might well prove impossible to keep it secret for more than a few days. Already several of my friends and others in Fleet Street were asking why I had not been on the Front Bench during the previous day's debate. They seemed to sense that I was on the point of resignation, and my private secretary had not been able to convince them by replying that I was in bed stricken with asthma. With that we parted, and as we shook hands Eden said with a smile: *"Tout casse sauf l'amitié.* I hope, in spite of all this, that we shall see something of each other in the future." I have never seen him since that day.

* * *

When the House met on October 31 to hear a report from the Prime Minister on the latest events, it was in an atmosphere of confusion and growing suspicion. But, apart from the scarcely surprising announcement that Israel had accepted the ultimatum and that Egypt had rejected it the previous evening, Eden had nothing new to say.

Several times he repeated how essential it was for Britain and France to act rapidly in this situation. Yet when Gaitskell asked whether, in that case, British troops were now in action on Egyptian territory and, if not, when they might be expected to arrive, Eden refused to reply. All he would say, although pressed repeatedly for information, was that he had "made perfectly plain yesterday that . . . we would take military action at the expiry of the period" of the ultimatum. In the absence of any news from Egypt of Anglo-French troop landings along the Canal, this reticence suggested fairly clearly that in spite of Egypt's rejection of the ultimatum, no military action had yet been undertaken. And to many members of the House it now seemed that, in this instance at least, the Security Council had in fact acted more "rapidly" than the British and French Governments. Not unnaturally, this conclusion only increased their suspicion that the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary were concealing the Government's true intentions from the House.

Consequently, as the debate proceeded accusations of collusion began to multiply. Labour members pressed the Government on this point, including Philip Noel-Baker in his winding-up speech from the Opposition Front Bench. No longer, therefore, could the Foreign Secretary ignore the question, as he had done the night before. And, picking his words very carefully, he replied in these terms:

"The right hon. gentleman asked whether there had been collusion with regard to this matter. Every time any incident has happened on the frontiers of Israel and the Arab States we have been accused of being in collusion with the Israelis about it. That allegation has been broadcast from Radio Cairo every time. It is quite wrong to state that Israel was incited to this action by her Majesty's Government. There was no prior agreement between us about it. It is, of course, true that the Israeli mobilization gave some advance warning and we urged restraint upon the Israeli Government and in particular drew attention to the serious consequences of any attack upon Jordan."

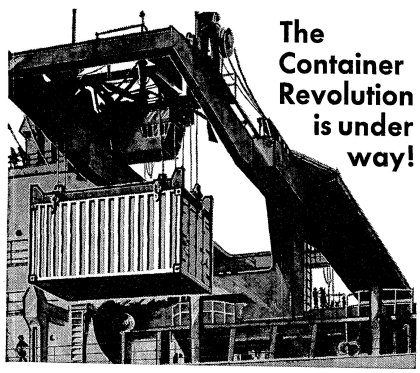
Not the whole truth

It would be hard to find in the annals of Parliament a more disingenuous pronouncement by a Minister of the Crown. Undoubtedly the French were the instigators of the Suez intervention and bore prime responsibility for "inciting" Israel; but, to say the least, this was not quite the whole truth. Again, it is perhaps possible to claim that no written "agreement" was made between Britain, France, and Israel prior to the invasion of Sinai: but there was complete understanding and joint preparation. And to suggest that in these circumstances we were innocent of collusion was as unworthy of the man who did it as it was of the place where it was done.

If any of the Government's critics believed what Lloyd and Eden told them in the course of this debate, they were in for a rude awakening on the following morning. For during the night of October 31-November 1 British aircraft, in fulfilment of our pledge to Ben-Gurion, bombed four Egyptian airfields—Almaza, Inchass, Abu Sueir, and Kabrit—and early the next morning followed up these raids with attacks on a total of nine Egyptian aerodromes. The bombing was extremely accurate, no civilian centres were hit, and when the raiders had finished their work there was little, if anything, left of Egypt's bomber force. The R.A.F. had kept Eden's promise to the Israelis, who could now continue their advance across Sinai, safe in the knowledge that Nasser could neither retaliate against their cities nor harass their progress in the field.

Tomorrow: The pressures grow

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Labour Opposition smells a rat over Israel assurances.
By ANTHONY NUTTING

The Times (London, England),Thursday, May 04, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56932.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS167996580

Mr Nutting took advice on book

Question of Secrets Acts

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Some Labour Ministers are tempering their delight in the political windfall of Mr. Anthony Nutting's inside account of British collusion in the Israel attack on Egypt in 1956, as serialized in *The Times*. with some doubts whether Mr. Nutting has not dangerously bulldozed his way through the inhibitions of the Privy Councillor's oath of secrecy and the Official Secrets Acts.

There is a fear that a precedent may be in the making of a kind to unnerve all Ministers.

Mr. Crossman, Leader of the Commons, showed yesterday that the Government are willing enough to satisfy their backbenchers' 10-year-old demand for a debate to investigate the evidence of collusion. But the debate should follow publication in July of Mr. Nutting's book, *No End of a Lesson*.

It is fully expected that in the debate Mr. Nutting's attitude towards his oath and the Acts will raise questions going wider than the party dogfight over the alleged diplomatic conspiracy. Some pas sages in *The Times* are considered to raise important issues about the relations of politicians with the House and of former Ministers with their colleagues.

Interpreting the law

Mr. Nutting followed practice by submitting his book to the Cabinet Office. Sir Burke Trend, the Secretary to the Cabinet, is understood to have read it, and Mr. Wilson probably knew of it.

The rule is that Cabinet Ministers must ask for leave to use state documents. A former Minister who was not in the Cabinet, like Mr. Nutting, does not need to ask leave, although it is discreet to seek the advice of the Cabinet Office. That advice may suggest deletions, but the decision whether to accept the advice lies with the author, who can then be answerable in the courts. (No prosecution is likely in the present case.)

Most Ministers and former Ministers would agree that the oath and the Acts range so wide that they are self-defeating. No Minister or former Minister could keep within their strict terms short of becoming a Trappist monk.

Much political information that a democracy needs reaches publication because Ministers and former Ministers have "interpreted" the inhibition laid upon them. Without such interpretation, to give an immediate example, this report could not be written.

Weight of tradition

The Privy Councillor's oath requires him to "keep secret all Matters committed and revealed unto you or that shall be treated of secretly in council . . .". On occasion, senior Ministers take this oath very seriously, although they have to bend it a little, say, in addressing private party meetings.

In his *Cabinet Government* Sir Ivor Jenning commented: "It is said that the Privy Councillor's oath restrains those who take it from publishing information obtained in the service of the Crown. It is difficult to believe that it is the oath alone and not the weight of tradition, the insistence of the Prime Minister, or the disapproval of colleagues, that makes the secrecy of the British Cabinet more effective than is common in most governmental systems".

The fact is that all Cabinet Ministers have a personal interest confidentially but they can never be sure who among their colleagues is not keeping a diary to add to the flood of Ministerial memoirs.

This helps to explain the ambivalence of at least some Labour Ministers about Mr. Nutting's book.

Lying allegations

Mr. Michael Foot (Ebbw Vale, Lab.) said in the Commons yesterday that allegations of lying in the House had been made in *The Times* by a former Minister. Did Mr. Crossman think they should postpone the matter until the book was published?

Mr. Crossman, in answering requests for a Suez debate, had said that he supposed all members had been reading with interest the serial in *The Times*, but he thought they should wait until the book was published in full before seeing how the House would deal with the subject, if it did.

Mr. Nutting said last night: "I have taken counsel of course, and have been advised that neither the book nor the extracts now being published in *The Times* constitute a breach of the Official Secrets Acts or the Privy Councillor's oath."

Further extracts from Anthony Nutting's controversial book on Suez, page 11.

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Mr Nutting took advice on book.
BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Friday, May 05, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56933.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS18312357

Egypt hails Lord Montgomery

SIDI ABDEL RAMAN, EGYPT, May 4. —Field Marshal Lord Montgomery said here today that he was thrilled to return to the Western Desert, the scene of his decisive campaign against Rommel in the Second World War.

Lord Montgomery was speaking at a luncheon given in his honour at the hotel where he is staying at this tourist resort near El Alamein.

He said he had been given a tremendous reception in Egypt when he arrived yesterday. Tomorrow he will begin an eight-day tour of the scenes of his wartime victories.—*Reuter.*

Egypt hails Lord Montgomery.
The Times (London, England),Friday, May 05, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56933.

Category: News

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Aden exiles pick Cabinet team

Mr Mackawee 'President'

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—ADEN, MAY 4

The Egypt-backed Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (Flosy), which is based in Taiz, Yemen, is expected to announce a government in exile, headed by Abdul Qawee Mackawee, the secretary-general of Flosy, with Abdullah Abdul Majid al-Asnag as Prime Minister. The announcement is likely in about three weeks' time, I understand.

The move is obviously intended to bring pressure on Britain, which is seeking a broad-based South Arabia government before independence, promised by next year, to abandon other nationalist groups and the South Arabia Federal Government in favour of Flosy alone.

The Flosy revolutionary command decided nearly a fortnight ago to form a government in exile, which it said would be announced at a suitable time. It also said that many Arab countries and friendly powers had recognized the "Government".

A former Aden Chief Minister, Mr. Mackawee, who was dismissed in 1965 by the British High Commissioner in Aden for supporting terrorism openly, appears to hold the post of "President" in the government in exile.

Rival groups

It includes several leading Adenis who recently left Aden, ostensibly after receiving threats from Flosy's rival, the banned National Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (N.L.F.).

The N.L.F., which parted company from Flosy in December, has frowned upon the Flosy government in exile, which it considers as unnecessary on the ground that various nationalist revolutionary groups have not merged.

As well as Mr. Mackawee, the Flosy government is expected to include 16 ministers, among them four former Aden Ministers who left Aden recently. They are Ali Salem Ali, Hussain Ismail Khodabux Khan, Ali Alwan Mulhi and Saeed Hasson Sohbi.

The first two will hold "portfolios" of posts and telegraph and public works respectively. The other two will be ministers of state.

The "ministries" of war, foreign affairs, and defence go to Abdullah al-Maagali, Muhammad Salem Basendwah and Abdullah Mahfoodh. Mr. Maagali is at present the leader of the Popular Organization of Revolutionary Forces (Porf), which is the terrorist arm of Flosy.

More shooting

An unknown gunman today shot and seriously wounded a police constable and a bystander in a back street in the Crescent area of Aden, not far from a police station. It was the second shooting incident in less than 12 hours.

Last night three people were shot dead and another injured seriously. The killing of Arabs by Arabs has been an almost daily occurrence since the separation of the N.L.F. from Flosy last December.

Officials estimated that at least six N.L.F. and 14 Flosy men have been killed since then by rival gunmen. Flosy recently attributed some of the latest killings to a British-sponsored gang of killers and kidnappers, including federal rulers and members of the South Arabian League (S.A.L.), a less extremist political party. The federal rulers and S.A.L. have strongly denied these allegations.

King Husain in Teheran

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT
TEHERAN, MAY 4

King Husain of Jordan arrived here for a two-day private visit at the invitation of the Shah of Iran. The two monarchs are to attend the opening of the 65th international Olympic Congress.

They will also discuss Middle East affairs and trade between the two countries.

A Jordan trade mission is expected to visit Teheran next month to discuss a trade and commercial agreement with Iran.

King Husain may seek Iran's support for his anti-Nasser policy at home.

Aden exiles pick Cabinet team.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Friday, May 05, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56933.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS84110501

NO END OF A LESSON—6

Canada offers a way out at the UN



By ANTHONY NUTTING, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, 1954-56

By the following morning, Friday, November 2, the only good news that the Government had received was of the effects of the bombing attacks on Egyptian airfields and of the progress of their Israeli ally across the Sinai Peninsula. The Egyptian bomber force had been effectively destroyed on the ground, and each of the four prongs of the Israeli attack had thrust deep into Egyptian territory, inflicting heavy losses on Nasser's army, and was well on the way to gaining its objective. For the British and French Governments this had the double advantage of imposing a humiliating defeat on Egypt and of providing a continuing pretext for Anglo-French intervention "to stop the fighting". Selwyn Lloyd was to make much of this pretext in the debate the next day when Gaitskell suggested that the fighting between Egypt and Israel was virtually finished and that no grounds existed any longer for Anglo-French intervention in defiance of the U.N. resolutions.

But aside from this there was little, if any, comfort for her Majesty's Ministers. And it was beginning to look doubtful whether Eden would be able to carry through the proposed Anglo-French action in face of mounting international pressures.

Among these were (1) the relentless opposition of the United States, (2) the passing of a resolution in the U.N. General Assembly calling for a ceasefire and a halt to the movement of all military forces and arms, (3) the blocking by the Egyptians of the Canal, which forced Britain to seek oil from dollar areas, and (4) the run on the pound. There seemed no alternative but retreat.

Eden had already begun to realize this, both on personal and on political grounds. Sick man that he was, the strain of the past few days of incessant parliamentary debate was taking its toll of his powers of endurance; for ever since Tuesday the House of Commons had discussed little else but the Suez war, and by midday on Friday the Government were forced to agree to the highly unusual procedure of holding a parliamentary session on Saturday. Besides, unlike the French, he was gravely anxious about the isolation of our position in the U.N. He felt that we could not simply ignore the U.N. Assembly's resolution, even though, as he contended, it did not have the effect of an order, as was the case with a Security Council motion. While I did not see him again after we parted on the previous Wednesday, I know that he felt very deeply the censure which he had brought upon himself from the United States and the Commonwealth. And it was no doubt due to these pangs of conscience that he had, in the course of Thursday's debate, given a broad hint that, if the U.N. would undertake the task of maintaining peace in the area of conflict, he would be delighted to see them do so.

CLUTCHING A STRAW

I was soon to learn what lay behind this hint. On Friday morning Lloyd asked me to see him and to help in drawing up a plan for a U.N. force to take over from the British and French forces, which were due to begin their landings on the morning of Tuesday, November 6. The idea was to get Lester Pearson, then Canadian Foreign Minister, to put the plan forward in the U.N. Assembly. Pearson had himself suggested in a speech to the Assembly on the previous evening that a U.N. force should be sent to the area to keep the peace, and had offered to contribute a Canadian contingent for this purpose. The omission of any proposal of this kind from the American resolution was, he explained, why Canada had decided to abstain in the vote. He had thrown us a straw and we were clutching at it in a desperate attempt to extricate ourselves from our predicament.

French thinking at this point was, however, very different from the despondent attitude which now prevailed in London. In fact, the more Eden seemed to be weakening, the more determined Mollet's Government became to speed up the Anglo-French landings in Egypt. Fearing that a renewed demand for Britain and France to cease hostilities would come from the U.N. Assembly on the following Monday, November 5, before the Anglo-French landings were due, they felt strongly that our joint intervention should take place at least simultaneously with the Assembly's Monday session and not twenty-four hours later, as had been planned. Thus, when the demand came, Anglo-French troops would be in occupation at least of Port Said, whereas, if they were still on their way to Egypt, the British Government might find it politically impossible to see the intervention through.

As a first step, an urgent approach was made by the French to the Israelis with the object of advancing the date of the landings by two days and, if necessary, making the initial assault a purely French enterprise. The idea was to capture Port Said with paratroops early on the morning of Sunday, November 4. But to do this with speed and certainty so far in advance of the sea-borne landings required, according to the French view, a simultaneous advance by the Israelis to take Kantara on the east bank of the Canal in order to cover the paratroop drop and to protect the French flank from Egyptian counter-attack. The Israelis, needless to say, promptly and enthusiastically supported this plan and even offered the French—and the British, too, if they wished to participate—the use of any or all of the three approach routes to the Canal across Sinai which were now in Israeli hands. But when the French confided their intentions and the Israelis' concurrence to London, they met with cries of outraged indignation. Not only did our military authorities consider it extremely hazardous to land paratroops as long as 48 hours before any sea-borne support would reach them; but, worse still, Ministers felt that it would give the whole show away. The French were told bluntly that it would be impossible to answer the mounting accusations of collusion if the Israelis were now to advance to the Canal itself in a move palpably intended to cover the landing of French troops. How could we then claim to be "separating the combatants" and "protecting" the Canal from the warring parties?

UNHAPPY ENCOUNTER

Thus this French manoeuvre came to nothing, and when Pineau came to London on the afternoon of Friday, November 2, to discuss the terms of a join Anglo-French reply to the U.N. resolution, he was presented with a still more bitter pill. It was a most unhappy encounter. Gone were the high hopes of only a week before, and when Pineau returned to Paris that evening, it was with the feeling that Britain had already lost much of the determination with which she had entered into the undertaking. True, the air offensive against Egypt was to be continued until the troops landed, and the intervention was to be carried out as planned. True, too, Cairo Radio was still to be silenced by bombing and the dropping of leaflets exhorting the Egyptians to revolt and overthrow Nasser was to continue (although what all this had to do with a police action to separate the combatants nobody bothered to explain!).

But the terms of the Anglo-French reply to the United Nations, which Pineau had to accept, spelled unmistakably eventual retreat. The two Governments remained convinced, they said, that "police action must be carried through urgently to stop the hostilities". But having said that, they added that "they would most willingly stop military action" and give way to a U.N. peace-keeping force if Egypt and Israel accepted such a force, and provided it were kept in being "until an Arab-Israel peace settlement is reached and until satisfactory arrangements have been agreed in regard to the Suez Canal". Finally, they demanded that, pending the establishment of a U.N. force, Egypt and Israel should accept "limited detachments of Anglo-French troops to be stationed between the combatants".

A MISERABLE MOUSE

This was a somewhat miserable mouse to emerge from the mountain of great hopes on which Eden and Mollet had jointly set their hearts less than three weeks earlier. No longer were Britain and France to hold the Suez Canal and its terminal ports until Nasser either fell from power or tamely accepted their terms for the settlement of the Suez Canal dispute. No longer were we to ensure by our physical presence on the Canal that the international waterway was "divorced from the politics of one power" and that Israeli ships and cargoes should proceed freely between Suez and Port Said. Now we were going to leave all that to the United Nations, and we were going to ask Canada to propose that the United Nations be invited to take over these responsibilities from us. There must have been some heavy hearts in France, and Israel too, when Eden announced the news to Parliament on the following day.

For myself, this dramatic change of policy came as a great relief. But it still did not—and could not—expunge the stain which our collusion with France and Israel had left upon our record. Nor did it make amends for our bombing attacks on Egypt nor cancel the act of aggression which we were still to launch against Port Said and the Canal Zone. Admittedly, we had taken unprecedented precautions to avoid civilian casualties by radio warnings to the local population of impending bombing raids. But we were still in breach not only of the U.N. Charter, but also of the Tripartite Declaration and the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement of 1954, which I had personally negotiated and signed. And, however relieved I might feel that we were now proposing to hand over to the U.N., I still could not defend what we had done and were about to do by way of intervention. I therefore could not withdraw my resignation. And although first Rab Butler sought to get me to do so, and then one of Eden's Private Secretaries called on me on Saturday morning to suggest that I should change places with Jack Maclay, then Minister of State at the Colonial Office, I had to refuse their pleas.

Meanwhile, the Press had become more than ever curious about my continued absence from the House of Commons during the incessant debates on the crisis, and they were now demanding an answer, Yes or No, to the question whether or not I had resigned. It was therefore impossible to stall them any longer and, after discussing matters with Eden through Lloyd, it was agreed to publish my letter of resignation at midnight on Saturday.

Before I left the Foreign Office for good, I felt that I owed it to my three junior ministerial colleagues to explain my reasons for resigning. All three—Lord Reading, my co-Minister of State, Douglas Dodds-Parker and John Hope, the Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State, were deeply shocked and angry at having been kept in the dark about actions and decisions which, as Ministers, they could be called upon to defend in Parliament. For a moment, they seemed to be on the point of walking out with me. But, after a lengthy discussion, we agreed that if all four of us were to resign en bloc the Government might be irreparably damaged at a moment of national crisis; and we could none of us want to create a state of political chaos at this critical juncture. My colleagues were all somewhat churlishly rewarded for their loyalty. Hope was promptly demoted and transferred to another department, and when Macmillan took over the premiership from Eden two months later, Reading and Dodds-Parker were curtly dismissed from office altogether.

OFFICIALS INDIGNANT

My ministerial colleagues were not, however, the only angry men in the Foreign Office at this time. The word had by now got around that I had resigned; and as soon as I returned from Reading's room I found myself bearded by several senior officials who had guessed the truth about the Anglo-French intervention and who felt deeply in their hearts that they could no longer serve a Government which had so debased our name and fame in the eyes of the world. In all my five years as a Foreign Office Minister I had never seen such a demonstration of real indignation from officials normally the epitome of unruffled calm. And it took a lot of argument to persuade them that they would be wrong to resign. I reminded them that they were not publicly answerable for the Government's policy as I would have been if I had stayed in office, and that, if they were to quit when the Prime Minister was beginning to have second thoughts about the whole operation, it would be harder than ever to pick up the pieces and clear up the mess. This turned the scale, and all of them agreed, albeit reluctantly, to stay.

These awkward encounters over, I stayed a few minutes longer brooding in my office upon the tragedy which had so suddenly engulfed us all. I hope that I shall never know a sadder moment than the last quarter of an hour before I left the Foreign Office for good. It was not only that everything I had personally striven for in the way of a new relationship of confidence with the Arab world had been undone. Worse than this, all Eden's—and Lloyd's—own efforts had been nullified, and every principle for which Eden had stood and fought as Foreign Secretary had been trampled in the mire. How could we retrieve all that we had lost in this mad imperialist gamble? How could we regain the trust that we had shattered and the moral leadership that we had forfeited? We, the champions of the rule of law, had applied the law of the jungle; and with the Russians doing the same, only far more ruthlessly, in Hungary at that self-same moment, the outlook for the world looked black indeed.

Tomorrow: The final retreat.

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Canada offers a way out at the UN.
By ANTHONY NUTTING, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, 1954-56

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Category: News

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NO END OF A LESSON—7

Final retreat—and an untruth in the Commons

By Anthony Nutting, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 1954-1956

As the Israelis attained all their objectives and an agreed cease fire with Egypt seemed imminent the British Government agreed that the advance guard of the Anglo-French force should land 24 hours earlier than planned. By the time the paratroops began to land in Port Said the position of the Israeli and Egyptian forces was precisely that which the Anglo-French ultimatum had demanded that they should adopt. By the evening of November 6 the pressures to halt the attack had become so great that the operation was abandoned less than 48 hours after it had started.

To say the least, it was an extraordinary situation. For, in truth, we had achieved none of the objectives, whether pretended or real, with which we had set out upon this sorry adventure. We had not separated the combatants; they had separated themselves. We had not protected the Canal; it was blocked. We had not safeguarded British lives and property, but had subjected them to the gravest hazards. Nor had we achieved our real aim of seizing control of the Canal. Least of all had we toppled Nasser from his throne. In fact, we had fallen between every stool, and now, not unexpectedly perhaps, even the French, taking the view that the Americans were bluffing, turned against us in bitter recrimination for calling a halt when in their opinion victory was in sight. In the Hôtel Matignon and the Quai d'Orsay there were murmurings of the old accusation of "*Perfide Albion*". Once again we were "a nation of shopkeepers" who in the final analysis would jettison everything, including national prestige or engagements to an ally, if commercial or financial interests were threatened.

Certainly there could hardly have been a greater threat to Britain's commercial and financial interests than that which now presented itself. Speculation against sterling had been mounting since September, and by November the run on the pound had developed to critical proportions. In September and October our reserves fell by $141m. and in November they were to fall by $279m, virtually double the amount for the previous two months. Nobody had been better placed to observe this perilous trend than Harold Macmillan, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Having led the pack in supporting the Anglo-French conspiracy, Macmillan now became the first to sound the retreat. On November 6 he had gone to tell Lloyd the grim facts of our financial position.

EARLY WITHDRAWAL

The arguments were irresistible and, as Eden has related, coupled with the fact that Egypt and Israel had both ceased fire and accepted the U.N. Emergency Force, the Cabinet agreed that a halt had to be called, although he and several other Ministers did so only with the greatest reluctance. In spite of some last-minute resistance, the end was not far off. Neither the French nor ourselves could hold out for more than a few days longer against the pressures of political opinion and economic fact. Besides, as the decision to withdraw one battalion was being taken, the Prime Minister was struck down by illness. The strain of the last three weeks and of acting a part so completely out of character had by now caught up with him. The bouts of fever induced by his bile-duct trouble, which had occurred periodically since the beginning of October, had weakened him to the point of total exhaustion, and his doctors insisted that he could not carry on under the strain of office unless he now took a few weeks' rest. On November 21, No. 10 Downing Street therefore issued the astonishing announcement that the Prime Minister was to leave the country on doctors' orders and would be away for three weeks, during which time Mr. R. A. Butler would be in charge of the Government. On November 23 Eden and his wife left England for Jamaica.

The next day the U.N. General Assembly voted by 63 to five a resolution sponsored by the Afro-Asian nations which regretted the continued presence of British and French forces in Egypt and requested their withdrawal "forthwith".

Nasser was adamant that Anglo-French troops must be withdrawn before the Egyptians would cooperate in clearing the canal. Selwyn Lloyd tried to buy a longer stay for British troops, but without success.

Thus, when Lloyd reported to the House of Commons on November 29, it was clear that his efforts in New York had been an almost total failure and that Britain had accepted, for herself at any rate, the need for early and complete withdrawal from Egypt. Trying to make the best of a miserable situation, he said that within a fortnight an "organized military force" of over 4,000 men, drawn from different U.N. member states—India, Indonesia, Brazil, Colombia and the Scandinavian countries—would be established on Egyptian soil under the command of General Burns. He could not say anything for the time being about an Anglo-French withdrawal; but he was to have talks with the French Foreign Minister in London on the following day, and would make a further statement to the House after the weekend.

Lloyd and Pineau met over the weekend to consider the impasse which they had reached. Much as it went against the grain to admit it, both men knew that to continue to defy the United States and the U.N. spelled ruin for both their countries. There was no way out but retreat. It might be possible as a face-saver to make the withdrawal a phased operation to coincide with the build-up of the U.N. Emergency Force. But the phasing could not be spread over more than three weeks, and it was agreed that all British and French troops should be out of Egypt by December 22. Eisenhower was immediately notified of this decision, and on the same day, fulfilling his part of the bargain, he announced that he had authorized American oil companies to work together to supply oil to Europe.

INQUEST IN THE HOUSE

The bitter pill had been swallowed at last, and on Monday, December 3, Lloyd rose to the Despatch Box to announce the fact to a tense House of Commons. . .

Over the next three days the House of Commons held a financial and political inquest on the Suez War. In the course of these further exchanges, the Opposition managed to wring from the Minister of Defence the extraordinary admission that Britain had known that Israel was going to attack Egypt two or three days before the event. Replying to a Labour back-bencher, Colonel George Wigg, Head stated that "On November 26 the Government were informed by Her Majesty's Ambassador in Tel Aviv that mobilization of the Israeli forces had begun. During the next two days further information was received indicating that Israeli forces were concentrating in the Negev."

Up till this moment Government spokesmen had stuck rigidly to the pretence that they had been led to believe that Israel was threatening Jordan and not Egypt. Now, however, Head was admitting something very different; and Wigg, sensing the significance of the Minister's words, pressed him to say whether or not he knew when the Israeli operation was to begin and what was to be its scope. Head now allowed himself to be drawn still further, saying that "the possibility of an Israeli attack on Egypt had been in the mind of the Government for some considerable time", and that "our first true knowledge that it was going to take place was when we were informed about the mobilization". In other words, the Government were now saying that they had had three days' notice that Israel was going to attack Egypt.

Although this was still by no means the whole truth, at least it was an improvement on the spurious pretences which had been offered up by every other Government spokesman hitherto. Yet, surprisingly enough, it was scarcely mentioned in the rest of the two days' debate.

* * * * * * *

I was to pay a bitter price for my action in resigning from the Government. This was because, both at the time and so long as any of the chief protagonists of the Suez War held office, I was precluded from giving the real reasons for my resignation. . . . I had given the Prime Minister my solemn pledge that I would do nothing further to "rock the boat" at this critical moment and, in particular, would not make any public statement either in Parliament or to my constituents.

The Executive Committee of the Melton Conservative Party demanded an explanation from Nutting which he could not give without damaging the Government and the country. He chose instead to resign his seat.

One final personal problem remained. Should I, when the dust had cleared from the scene of conflict, make the traditional personal statement of a resigning Minister to the House of Commons? Or should I bow out of public life in total silence? If I said nothing, it would look odd and might suggest that there was something to hide. This would deepen the widespread suspicion of collusion. Yet if I made a statement, what could I say? Three times I tried my hand at drafting something, toning each draft down as I went, progressively eliminating accusations and imputations and carefully avoiding anything which might hint at our collusion, so that the last draft became little more than a catalogue of pious regrets over the Government's actions. Still, since Parliamentary tradition required me to say something, I decided to go ahead with my final watered-down version and arranged with the Government Whips' Office to make the statement on November 13.

No sooner had I made this arrangement than I received a summons to call on Macmillan at his official residence in No. 11 Downing Street. At his request I showed him the text of my intended statement. When he had finished reading it he shook his head and, in solemn and almost funereal tones, he said: "This is very damaging. It could easily bring down the Government, and for you, dear boy, it will do irreparable harm." Then, after pausing for dramatic effect, he went on: "Why say anything at all? You have already been proved right and we have been proved wrong. You have also done the right thing by resigning and, if you keep silent now, you will be revered and rewarded. You will lead the party one day."

At that moment I wanted to be quit of politics and all the hypocrisy that seemed to go with it. I did not even stop to argue, and, picking up my speech walked silently from the room. Outside in the street, I tore my notes up and stuffed them down a drain. It seemed a fitting gesture.

On December 14 Eden returned from Jamaica. On December 20 the Opposition staged one final attempt to extract the truth about the Suez episode. Gaitskell began by saying that Pineau, the French Foreign Minister, had revealed to the National Assembly in Paris that France and Britain had laid their plans well in advance of the Israeli attack on Egypt.

Was this not an admission, Gaitskell demanded, that the Suez War had been planned beforehand and that this had formed the basis of the meeting between the two Prime Ministers on October 16? But Eden refused to be drawn. Ignoring Pineau's statement and in complete disregard of what his own Minister of Defence had said only a fortnight earlier, he insisted once again that the Government had been led to believe that Israel was threatening Jordan, with whom we had a treaty of alliance. And throughout almost all the rest of the debate he managed by means of this kind of double-talk to keep out of trouble. But then in the final exchanges he went a little too far. Under relentless pressure by the Opposition, he said that, while the Government knew there was a risk of the Israelis breaking out in other directions, "there was not foreknowledge that Israel would attack Egypt".

THE ONE EXCEPTION

From my personal knowledge of this sad and sordid chapter of history and from a close investigation of the record of public statements made by Ministers at the time, this was, I think, the one occasion on which an actual untruth was spoken. Almost every other statement is open to the charge of disingenuousness, and Ministers certainly sought to cover up their misdeeds in this connexion by every possible evasion. But, largely by using the old Parliamentary dodge of answering the question that was not asked, they managed—with this one exception—to avoid saying anything that was strictly untrue. And although unhappily Eden's remark must remain on the record, coming as it did as such a blatant contradiction of Head's categorical statement fifteen days before, it may fairly be said to have been a slip of the tongue made under pressure by a man whose health was failing to the point where he could no longer exercise control of the House of Commons, still less the situation which he had created.

Proof of this grave deterioration of the Prime Minister's health came only a week later, when the fever which had laid Eden low before returned, while he was spending the Christmas holiday at Chequers. On his doctor's advice, he went to London to see two specialists, who agreed that, under pressure of work, the bouts of fever would become increasingly frequent. Since there could be no question of his being able to carry on working during such bouts, there was only one possible conclusion to be drawn. Accordingly, on January 9, Eden went to Buckingham Palace to tender his resignation as the Queen's First Minister.

Concluded

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These extracts are taken from Anthony Nutting's book, No End of a Lesson—the story of Suez, *to be published by Constable on July 3, price 25s.*

Final retreat-and an untruth in the Commons.
By Anthony Nutting, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 1954-1956

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Lord Montgomery condemns Suez

Wreath laid at Alamein

From DEREK JEWELL and PETER MANSFIELD, El Alamein, May 7

Under a harsh sun, on what he described as "the most solemn day of our pilgrimage", Field Marshal Lord Montgomery of Alamein this morning laid a wreath of poppies at the Commonwealth war memorial and cemetery here, overlooking the barren desert vista of his crucial victory over Rommel's Axis Army in 1942.

It was a simple and unpretentious occasion, and his emotion was apparent as he spoke after the wreath-laying of what this tribute meant to him.

Lord Montgomery has never been an ordinary general, however. He has always tended to be embroiled in controversy, and later in the day, when he turned his thoughts to the world of the 1960s in answering questions at a press conference, he ran true to form.

He was warm in his praise for the reception he had had from President Nasser and the Egyptian Army and people. He declared that the west should withdraw from all land bases east of Suez.

No longer popular

Cut short while reminiscing on the battle of Alamein by a question on the British Government's east of Suez policy, Lord Montgomery was quite unequivocal. As the west was no longer popular in land bases in the Middle East and Far East it should conduct a phased withdrawal from all of them.

To those Egyptians present who were unaware that he had said this last week in the House of Lords, this remark came as a gratifying surprise. So also did his view of the Suez affair.

In his long military career of half a century, he said, he had inevitably become involved with many high political leaders. His experience taught him that any important course of action must be judged by three criteria: first, is it politically desirable, second, is it militarily necessary, and third, is it morally right? In his view, the combined Anglo-French-Israel attack on Egypt was morally wrong.

Eighth Army leader returns to Alamein, page 8.

Girl dies in Oxfam walk crush

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, MAY 7

A girl of 17 died and 32 other people were taken to hospital after an accident at the start of an Oxfam charity walk here last night.

One of the injured, Mr. Leslie Rutter, aged 19, a trainee laboratory technician, said "It was all very orderly as we went in to get our check cards and then we walked to the top gates, which lead from the car park at St. James's Park down a rather steep incline to Barrack Road.

"A girl in front of me fell down. I fell on top of her and there was a general pile-up and a lot of screaming. Those at the back trampled over those on the ground through sheer weight of numbers."

The dead girl was Miss Margaret Hurford, of Norwood Avenue, Heaton. A secretarial college student, she went on the walk with her brother and they became separated.

Mr. Malcolm Watson, the chief marshal, said that about 6,000 people finished the walk.

ON OTHER PAGES

David Wood: Growing number of backbench

Lord Montgomery condemns Suez.
From DEREK JEWELL and PETER MANSFIELD

The Times (London, England),Monday, May 08, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56935.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS18443432

LONDON TALKS THIS WEEK ON SOUTH ARABIA

KING FAISAL TO ADVISE CAUTION

FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT—BEIRUT, MAY 7

The talks in London this week of King Faisal of Saudi Arabia may have an important influence on the course of events in the Arabian peninsula, where the Arab world's consuming struggle between revolutionaries and traditionalists is now being fought out.

The date for South Arabia's independence, which is already exercising the British Government, will offer a starting point for the discussions and Mr. Wilson will probably hear the case for caution put most cogently when he sees the King on Wednesday.

President Nasser's assurance last week that he would not send troops into South Arabia is unlikely to have persuaded King Faisal that Britain can now safely be allowed to move out, leaving chaos behind in Aden. Instability is his enemy and he is critical of Britain for having, as he sees it, encouraged Egypt's ambitions in both Yemen and South Arabia by the timing of its announcement about independence

Huge divisions

Not many people share the valiant optimism of Lord Shackleton, the Minister without Portfolio, who on his return from Aden for talks at the Foreign Office expressed the hope that a stable hand-over could be achieved. Suggestions in London that more time would make this more likely can be answered by saying that if the urgency of an early independence date fails to bring the factions together, nothing—and certainly not Britain—will. Hence the interest in a United Nations solution.

Even if the National Liberation Front's weekend appeal for a reconciliation with the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (Flosy) was more successful than earlier similar efforts to avoid fratricide, the divisions would remain huge.

Sultan Ghaleb bin Awadh, the ruler of the Qaiti state, who is reported to be in London, has for example expressed a determination to avoid being federated. He seems to prefer an independent Hadhramaut, whereas a group of South Arabians and Hadhramis living in the Saudi capital of Riyad have called for the entire area to be transformed into a republic on the basis of something called "sovereignty of the people". And so on. The permutations are endless but incompatible.

Hard bargaining

It is possible to envisage some very hard bargaining during the King's visit. Saudi Arabia has still not signed the major part of the £150m. defence deal worked out some 18 months ago and haggled over ever since. The signature of the parts dealing with the supply of radar by A.E.I. and numerous services installations by Airwork is at least six months overdue, and the delay is causing those involved embarrassment and alarm. Airworks' British pilots, for example, are flying sophisticated Lightning jet fighters with virtually no ground control.

Endless committees have studied the problem so far without result and it looks, as one official put it, like a case of Saudi Arabia's capacity for messing things up being pitted against Britain's ability to muddle them through.

There is no telling who will triumph, but the non-signature gives King Faisal a useful weapon in discussions on the political future of Arabia.

Much else will have to be taken into account in reviewing the general situation. The beginnings of a realistic cooperation among the leaders of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the seven Trucial Shaihkdoms are seen to be behind a good deal of mutual visiting lately. There has even been speculation about a mutual security pact among these virtually defenceless states.

Teheran meeting

Such a pact would mean something only if backed by a stronger power, and Saudi Arabia has been mentioned as a possible successor to Britain. But how strong can Saudi Arabia ever be, even if the defence deal is quickly consummated? If ever, it will be a long time and King Faisal is not young.

Meanwhile King Husain of Jordan, who recently toured the Gulf states, has made a sudden visit to Teheran for talks with the Shah about which nothing has been said publicly. Iran also has an interest in Arabian stability and was the first supporter of King Faisal's proposal for an Islamic summit conference which crystallized the dispute with Egypt.

King Faisal To Advise Caution.
FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Monday, May 08, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56935.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67595432

ALWAYS EGYPT?

From Dr. Salah El Serafy

Sir,—It must seem odd to your readers that the Egyptians are behind the killing of Arab schoolchildren (your report, May 2) and *also* responsible for the threat by Flosy against British women and children (your report, May 3), in retaliation for the first killing. Since in years to come students will be turning to your pages for objective reporting of the Aden scene, could you not help them by using Occam's razor to cut out the ubiquitous Egyptians so that the issues involved get better airing in your columns.

Yours faithfully,

SALAH EL SERAFY.

30 Oakwood Road, N.W.11.

Always Egypt?.
SALAH EL SERAFY

The Times (London, England),Monday, May 08, 1967; pg. 9; Issue 56935.

Category: Letters to the Editor

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TIMES PAST
THE TIMES

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KING FAISAL IN LONDON

KING FAISAL'S state visit is the traditional expression of a community of interests between two countries. There is no alliance, and indeed there is a history of quarrels as well as of friendship, but an open entente now rightly receives open recognition. The ceremonial is work for the KING, but the KING is PRIME MINISTER too, and that is the more important role in a week mainly devoted to diplomacy. Britain is taking, or drifting into, decisions of vital interest to Saudi Arabia, and it was essential that its chief executive should come to London to discuss them.

Britain and Saudi Arabia both need stability in regions where they are trying to change their traditional roles. For Britain the Gulf area, until oil was found, was part of the hinterland along its central imperial artery. British power was only exerted negatively along it—to keep interlopers out. To this end a single city-colony—Aden—was annexed on one side of the Arabian peninsula and obligations to the Trucial States contracted on the other side. Oil created an imperial interest in the interior but one which Suez showed could not be defended by force.

Britain's interest is now to leave the whole area in a stable and self-supporting condition in which the oil will flow and the rulers and people uphold their independence, and make their own adjustments to all-conquering modernity. Geography suggests that Saudi Arabia, the richest and most populous state, should from its heartland position be what Britain was in the days of sea hegemony—the protector, but also economic dynamo, of the region.

This is the role that PRESIDENT NASSER asserts for Egypt, as champion of a left-inclined Arab nationalism which equally rejects the testamentary provisions of the departing colonial power and the pretensions of a modernizing monarchy.

British policy prefers Saudi Arabia to inherit. The British question to KING FAISAL comes down to how much time is needed before Saudi Arabia can hold its own as the leading power in its own area. KING FAISAL's questions come to this—for how long and in what strength is Britain able to make a fighting retreat ?

The argument focuses on Aden. The Saudis want Britain to decolonize, but for British power to remain poised to prevent the Egyptians repeating in Aden their take-over in Yemen. The original plan was for a strong South Arabian Federation to be Britain's heir. Terrorism has torn this hope to bits. Egypt hopes to convert retreat into a disorderly withdrawal on the Palestine pattern that would destroy all credibility in British positions elsewhere, particularly in the Gulf states.

It is extraordinarily difficult for anyone to make long-term plans for Arabia. The Saudis, egged on and controlled by KING FAISAL, are trying this, and all credit must go to them for the effort. But the peninsula is vast and empty, and its traditional habits have been local and restless. It was only the personality of KING FAISAL'S father, ABDUL AZIZ IBN SAUD, which created the nucleus of modern order there. Since his death there have been constant prophecies that the Saudi state will break up. It has not done so, and one of the main reasons for this success is that in Arabia as everywhere else the majority of people have been learning to appreciate the benefits of ordered economic and political progress. That is something which both Britain and the Saudis must show they can offer the peninsula. So far their opponents have only shown that they can offer disorder.

King Faisal In London.
The Times (London, England),Tuesday, May 09, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56936.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS184773801

Black market money

Currencies have become rather unethical instruments of expropriation, according to Franz Pick, expert on international currency markets and editor of *Pick's Currency Yearbook.*

In the latest edition to be published in the autumn Dr. Pick again shows the black market premiums, listed here, based on the prices paid for American and Swiss banknotes in the trading centres of the countries mentioned.

We have taken only a few examples to indicate the range. It is one table in which the U.K. comes top, with a reported fractional premium of 0.6 per cent. Poland's zloty is clearly distrusted by its people—with the dollar being traded at a premium of 2,350 per cent.

BLACK MARKET PREMIUMS OF U.S. DOLLAR BANKNOTES

	Per cent
United Kingdom ..	0.6
Ireland	0.8
Australia	1.1
Japan	7.5
South Africa	7.7
Rhodesia	7.8
Libya	24.4
New Zealand	29.1
Turkey	40.0
China	48.4
India	54.7
Indonesia..	62.7
Pakistan	82.8
Syria	107.8
South Vietnam	110.0
Egypt	111.6
Hungary	269.7
Congo Republic	293.3
North Vietnam ..	344.8
U.S.S.R.	361.1
Burma	393.7
Czechoslovakia	404.2
East Germany	451.8
Albania	1,540.0
Cuba	2,100.0
Poland	2,350.0

Black market money.
The Times (London, England),Tuesday, May 09, 1967; pg. 26; Issue 56936.

Category: Business and Finance

Gale Document Number:CS436563113

MPs AGREE SAUDI ARABIA IS STABLE INFLUENCE

by George Clark
Assistant Political Correspondent

IN THE HEATED arguments at Westminster over the rights and wrongs of British policy towards Aden and South Arabia, with its wider implications for the future of the whole of the Arabian Peninsula, M.Ps of all parties are generally united in their appreciation of the stabilizing influence of Saudi Arabia, under its present leadership, on the increasingly dangerous situation.

There are sound reasons for believing that the British Government—in spite of all their firm declarations about the intention to withdraw troops from Aden and grant independence to the Federation of South Arabia in 1968—are deeply disturbed about the perils of leaving behind an unstable state and a power vacuum, and are turning for advice to the Saudis, who are also alarmed at the prospect looming ahead.

The Government pin their faith on solving the political problems of the structure of the Federation —and if it is necessary—in the last resort on a United Nations presence to keep the peace. The Conservatives stand by their pledge, when in power, to grant independence by 1968, coupled with a defence treaty lasting for a period of three or five years to guarantee a period in which the Federation could equip itself for its own defence.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home, the former Prime Minister, has asked the Government "to look at the prospect of a weak and independent Federation in the context of the Middle East and its effect on Saudi Arabia, on Iran and on Israel, because all those countries, singly and collectively, are gravely anxious about the British Government leaving a vacuum of power in Aden into which Egypt can walk". This, he said, was "a recipe for disorder and possibly war over a very large area".

On the left wing of the Labour Party, Mr. John Mendelson sees the same dangers. In a recent debate he told Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary: "The help of the United Nations and the Secretary-General is essential. . . . The only hope of avoiding the wider bloodshed, which everyone wants to avoid, and at the same time putting limits on President Nasser's ambitions, is to engage the United Nations, including all the members of the Security Council, to find a sensible policy."

Putting the problem of Aden into its wider context, Lord Lambton, one of the Conservative experts on the Middle East, told me: "The whole peninsula is being offered two choices at the moment. One is a forceful association with President Nasser; the other is a peaceful association with King Faisal. I think that King Faisal is a man of peace. He has no territorial ambitions with his neighbours. He is economically in a strong position and he can, I think, be a focal point for a peaceful grouping of the states on the Trucial Coast, the Gulf and the Red Sea.

"At the moment—until the air defence system is perfected—Saudi Arabia is vulnerable to air attack from Egypt and it would be unrealistic to think that this has not any reflection on Saudi Arabian thought. But within a matter of a few months the anti-aircraft missiles will be in place and the Saudi Arabian air force will be a striking, and not token, force."

Praising the social advances made in Saudi Arabia in recent years, Lord Lambton found it significant that the progressive states in the Middle East were those with traditional rulers—"Where they have thrown over the traditional rulers, the lack of leadership among the middle classes has resulted in the confusion of revolution without any material progress.

"Hospitals, schools, roads and communications are being tackled in Saudi Arabia at an extraordinary rate, and one must remember that King Faisal has been in power only about three years. His policies are in marked contrast to those of King Saud who, ironically enough, is now being entertained by President Nasser", said Lord Lambton.

From the Labour back benches Mr. Christopher Mayhew, the former Minister for the Royal Navy, rejects both Lord Lambton's assessment of the power struggle and the Government's policy, which he finds dangerously inconsistent. Mr. Mayhew, who is a leading advocate of the withdrawal of British troops not only from Aden but also from the Gulf within the next three or four years, recently led an all-party delegation of M.Ps to the Arab countries, where they had talks with King Faisal, King Husain, President Nasser and Arab nationalist leaders.

The former Navy Minister does not fear Nasserite intervention when the British leave South Arabia. He points out that Arab countries which Egypt hoped to bring within her orbit have resisted Nasserism because, in the absence of British forces, nationalist resistance automatically gravitated against Egypt. He believes that it is wrong, and against Britain's best interests, to be continually intervening unilaterally, with armed force in quarrels between Arab countries; that it is an outworn policy which has become a dangerous anachronism. Instead, he says, there should be military disengagement from the whole region and a drive to establish friendly relations with all Arab states.

Of King Faisal, Mr. Mayhew told me: "He is a man with an acute mind and strong personality; he knows where he is trying to go. Nevertheless, Saudi Arabia has a tremendous lot of ground to make up. Her influence in other Arab countries still depends more on money than on ideas and prestige.

"The Government is still far too much of a one-man band. There is a clear need for a stronger Civil Service and for Ministers drawn from a wider circle. The breaking down of prejudice against girls' education has been impressive but it is still true that occasionally thieves have their right hands cut off at Jeddah.

"King Faisal seemed almost as incredible to me about Britain's policy in Aden as President Nasser did—from a different point of view, of course. He holds that we are leaving too hurriedly and failing to protect our friends or giving them the means to protect themselves."

Another recent visitor to the Arab countries was Mr. Dennis Walters, Conservative M.P. for Westbury and a founder member of the Bow Group. His main impression was that the Gulf States and the shaikhdoms were considerably more stable than they are usually assumed to be. "They are not as easy material for subversion as Aden, for instance, because with the exception of Bahrain they do not contain large urban areas", he said. "However, it is also clear that if the South Arabian Federation breaks up and we do not get a defence agreement, the pressure on the Gulf will build up considerably.

"Saudi Arabia has a very important part to play. It must get into a position, in three or four years' time, when it will be the prime stabilizing influence in the area, performing a protective function for the Trucial shaikhdoms. It is not in that position yet. Its defences are not yet adequate to cope with an air attack and its army is not sufficiently strong to deal with outright aggression (although that is not a problem, because they have an American guarantee). The real problem is air defence. Therefore we in Britain must make sure we continue our arrangement with the South Arabian Federation at least for the next three or four years."

"Paradoxically, one of King Faisal's problems is that every step he takes (and is rightly taking) to evolve a more modern society weakens his base, which is founded on the most conservative elements in Muslim Saudi society. In government, the immediate task is to build up an efficient Civil Service and bring into the government service more of the clever young men who are emerging from the universities both in Saudi Arabia and abroad".

Mr. Walters thought that the Egyptians were using King Saud as a tool in their expansionist plans. "But they have not been very clever about this", he said. "How can they reconcile their talk of supporting all the progressive forces in the Middle East and using Saud as one of their pillars, a man who is the greatest exponent of sheer reaction in the whole area".

Expanding on the remarks he made in the Commons debate on Aden, Mr. John Mendelson said: "I do not support a policy which would spur either President Nasser or King Faisal into fighting each other over an area for which Britain is still responsible, and will be responsible, until independence is given to South Arabia. Any widening of the conflict would not be in the best interests of the people of Saudi Arabia or the Middle East in general, and will certainly not be in Britain's interests."

Another Labour member who was recently in Saudi Arabia, Mr. James Wellbeloved (Erith and Crayford) said that Saudi Arabia was a feudal society which was emerging "almost overnight" into the twentieth century and the King's advisers had a difficult task reconciling the lingering remnants of the old system with the new. "My main hope is that they will move to a more democratic system, but we must not expect too much, too soon", said Mr. Wellbeloved. "It is impressive to see the oil revenues now being used for the benefit of the country and its development."

In relation to present troubles, Mr. Wellbeloved said it was Saudi Arabia's official policy to maintain a fairly strict neutrality. They did not want to be involved in the South Arabian Federation's affairs, or in the Yemen: "I do not see them at this stage playing any decisive role in Middle East affairs", he said. "They are far too preoccupied getting themselves off the ground economically and diversifying their industries".

A Conservative back-bencher who is taking a close interest in Saudi Arabian developments is Mr. Neil Marten, M.P. for Banbury. He sees the position of Saudi Arabia as being "very unhappy" in the light of the British Government's proposal to withdraw from Aden. "Having withdrawn, we shall leave behind a power vacuum which President Nasser will attempt to fill—after which he will cast his eyes more seriously towards the Gulf", he said. "As a result of this situation the Shah of Persia must begin to wonder about the intentions of the West in this area. He is making economic arrangements with Russia in order to hold the balance until the position clarifies.

"In the event of an Egyptian attack I am sure the Saudi Arabian forces would give a good account of themselves within the limitations set by their latest equipment on which they have not yet received adequate training and much of which is not yet installed. She would not attack; only in defence would the forces go into action."

Mps Agree Saudi Arabia IS Stable Influence.
by George Clark Assistant Political Correspondent

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, May 09, 1967; pg. II; Issue 56936.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS537095337

Leadership in the struggle for Arab unity

by Wilfrid Knapp

FEW PEOPLE WOULD HAVE PREDICTED 10 years ago, that Riyadh would be spoken of today as part of a new axis in international affairs, or that Saudi Arabia would be the centre of Arab resistance to Nasserism. Not that King Faisal, who conducts his foreign policy on more than one level, would overtly make such a claim. Although Saudi territory has been under attack from Egyptian bombers while Saudi arms and money fight the Egyptians in Yemen, Faisal has never proclaimed an open rallying cry to the opponents of Nasser.

His appeal has been instead for Islamic union and solidarity, and he has canvassed an Islamic conference which might have met—if it had ever been taken up actively by more than a few other states—at the time of the pilgrimage this year. His appeal has gone beyond the Arab world to Pakistan, Turkey and Guinea. Indeed its original conception—as Faisal has repeatedly stressed—came from the President of Somalia. But the association of the Arabs with Islam makes it inconceivable that it should be addressed to some Arab states and not to others. A year ago in Amman, King Husain, the longest suffering recipient of Nasserite invective, vouched his support for an Islamic conference—and at the same time Faisal spoke of Egypt as being " in the forefront of Islamic countries."

Nonetheless the support which Islamic union has evoked has come solely from countries that are or believe themselves to be threatened by Nasser, and who are determined to resist. The Egyptians from their side have counter-attacked Faisal's initiative by denouncing it as a repetition of the Baghdad pact and as being inspired by the Americans. Similar denunciation comes from Syria.

Iraq, though resistant to Nasserite interference and most concerned with its own internal stability and development, is committed to Arab radical nationalism. Kuwait's interest is in mediation between Nasser and Faisal rather than commitment to either.

Iran, Jordan and Tunisia have given firm support to Faisal. They form a strange combination for an Islamic union—Iran a Shi'ite community now ruled by a secularizing monarch who has condemned the black reaction of the religious leaders, Tunisia a state which owes as much to socialist and republican France as to Islam. Other states which Faisal visited last year avoided taking sides in the conflict whose focus is in Yemen. The outsiders from the Arab world, Pakistan and Turkey, had nothing to gain from entering an inter-Arab dispute, while Sekou Touré was reported as saying enigmatically : " tout bon musulman est bon révolutionnaire." The fact remains that many of those who avoided taking sides were relieved to know that there were now two sides to be neutral between.

No one seems to know whether Faisal has achieved more or less than he expected from his appeal to Islamic union. There is no reason to suppose that he aimed to establish the kind of pact which the Egyptians accuse him of seeking—the phrase Islamic pact emanates from their propaganda. The Arab world is more divided than it ever has been ; there is no immediate possibility of another Arab summit to follow the one held in Casablanca in September, 1965 (boycotted only by Tunisia). Faisal has not wrested the movement for Arab unity from Nasser, for the movement does not now exist. Nor does he carry conviction with Arabs for whom Islam implies social justice of a kind incompatible with the wealth of a princely class in Arabia, or for whom kingly rule is an obstacle to Arab unity. What he has done is to demonstrate a will to govern, a will to reform and a will to resist. He has restored dignity to his kingdom and maximized the power of his state in international affairs.

His brother and predecessor on the throne, ex-King Saud had made Saudi Arabia into a bad joke, obscuring the fact that it belongs to a select class of developing nations which have long been politically and economically independent. The formal existence of the present state dates only from 1932 and its boundaries from 1926, after the Saudis ousted the Hashemites from the Hijaz. But the origins of the Saudi kingdom are to be found in the mid-eighteenth century, when Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahhab founded a stern puritanical movement (which others named after him) and formed an alliance with the Amir of Dariyah, Muhammad ibn Saud. The fervour of religious puritanism, military skill and a will to empire combined to bring the establishment of the first Wahhabi empire, which for a few years embraced nearly the whole of Arabia ; brought Wahhabism to Mecca, made inroads into Syria and Iraq, ranged across the marches of Oman and drew tribute from the Gulf Coast.

In the nineteenth century this great empire suffered a sharp decline. Ottoman power at Baghdad had been singularly ineffective in opposing the threat from the south. But from Egypt Mehemet Ali launched an invasion across the Red Sea, and expelled the Wahhabis from the Hijaz. Under the leadership of Ibrahim Pasha the expedition captured Dariyah in 1818 and took Abdullah ibn Saud to Constantinople to be beheaded. Even then the fastnesses of the desert would have ensured the continuity of the Wahhabi state, with its new capital at Riyadh ; for neither the Turks nor the Egyptians had the strength or the ambition to rule central Arabia, and the British interest was a maritime one, confined to the coast. But divisions and weaknesses within the Saudi house made it a prey to the rival Rashids, who captured Riyadh in 1884 and ruled until the end of the century.

The revival of the Saudi kingdom was the work of King Faisal's father, Abdul Aziz generally known outside the Arab world as Ibn Saud.

Politically independent as almost no other state of the Arab Middle East was in the years between the First and Second World Wars, the kingdom maintained its economic independence—at a low level. Then oil was discovered at the Dhahran and as Saudi Arabia entered the new world of the mid-twentieth century the revenue required for a new status, for development and eventually to counter the challenge of Soviet armaments was forthcoming from rich natural resources.

Equally important has been the fact that the tradition of Saudi Arabia carries with it a sense of independence and superiority. The Sauds owe their kingdom to the military and political skill of Abdul-Aziz and his forebears rather than to foreign intervention, and have treated with Europeans as equals. The kingdom was founded, too, in the full self-confidence of religious conviction. The Saudis owe their kingdom to the military and political skill of Abdul-Aziz and his forebears rather than to foreign intervention, and have treated with Europeans as equals. The kingdom was founded, too, in the full self-confidence of religious conviction. It is a tradition which ex-King Saud and some other members of the family have done their best to squander, and one which many young Saudis reject because of the harshness and obscurantism which is its other face. But it is a tradition on which an independent state has been founded and which King Faisal seeks to bend in the way of reform. The country has been more isolated than almost any other, both by climate and by her own proud rejection of foreign and infidel influence but her ruler is unrivalled in the length of his experience of international affairs. For political longevity only King Idris of Libya is in the same class.

The great Abdul Aziz ibn Saud was succeeded by his son Saud in 1953, the year after the Naguib-Nasser revolution. There being no rule of primogeniture Abdul Aziz had designated his successor and had the other sons swear allegiance to him. He also established a division of labour between Saud and Faisal, with the understanding that Faisal would be responsible for foreign affairs. In the next five years Egyptian prestige soared with the ending of the British base and the Suez campaign, while Saud brought his country to the point of bankruptcy. His money was spent not only in extravagant living but for political purposes. In 1958 Nasser accused him of spending £2,000,000 to have him assassinated and to disrupt the union of Egypt and Syria—and Saud's denials were not totally convincing.

The charge precipitated the opposition to Saud which had built up in his family and among the religious leaders—the *ulema*. Under pressure from them he gave full powers to Faisal, while remaining King himself. The change was warmly welcomed in Cairo, while the western press speculated on the extent to which Faisal represented the Nasserist tendencies which were correctly assumed to exist in Saudi Arabia. In practice Faisal's principal task—which he accomplished successfully in two years—was to restore the solvency of the kingdom.

In doing so he did not make himself popular. In 1960 Saud made one of his several bids to regain power from Faisal, and in doing so appointed their younger brother, Talal, to the Ministry of Finance. It was an unstable alliance. In the country Saud had prepared his comeback by exploiting the discontent of those who were short of cash—his generosity, extravagance and general bonhomie with the Beduin having an appeal which Faisal's ascetism and discipline could not always match. In the capital his appointments were given to the modernizers, men like Talal and Abdullah Al-Tareiki—the first Saudi Director of Aramco and a leading force in OPEC. Talal and his friends tried to force the pace and announced the introduction of a constitution which provided for a National Assembly as one of an extensive list of political innovations ; but Saud refused to sign it.

Within nine months Talal was in Beirut, where the Ambassador was asking him to surrender his passport. A reconciliation was effected between Saud and Faisal and Al-Tareiki was removed from the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals, which had been created for him.

From Beirut Talal went to Cairo, where he was welcomed with open arms by Nasser. But this alliance, too, was short lived. Talal discovered that the Egyptians wanted him to play their game rather than provide him with the resources for his own. The Yemen war then brought reconciliation with the family and Talal's return to Saudi Arabia, where he is landlord to the British Embassy.

Meanwhile the more important conflict between Saud and Faisal continued. Ailing and inadequate, making periodic trips abroad for medical treatment Saud swung from giving power to his brother when he was in trouble and taking it back when he felt better. Faisal was reluctant to go against the oath of allegiance he had given to his brother. But the dénouement came in 1964. Saud gave full power to Faisal in the spring. In the autumn, under pressure from the family and tribal and religious leaders, he surrendered the throne. Faisal was proclaimed King at the beginning of November.

Saud's flirtation with progress left its political casualties among the intellectuals and modernizers who are now, at best, excluded from power. They include Al-Tareiki himself who left Saudi Arabia and set up as an oil consultant, Abdul-Aziz Muammar educated at the American University of Beirut and later imprisoned after that rare occurrence, an Aramco workers' strike in 1955) and Mustapha Hafiz Wahba, a Cambridge graduate and son of a former ambassador. Such men, though rendered powerless themselves, might be thought to be the core or the inspiration of a group of intellectuals and technicians in opposition to Faisal. Yet an organized opposition does not appear to exist in any strength.

To some extent Faisal has taken the wind out of their sails by the reforms he has introduced. His strength is that of a conservative reformer, owing his authority to traditional legitimacy, religious as well as political—Imam of the Muslims as well as King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—using his power to promote change. The casual visitor to Saudi Arabia (if there can be such a thing) is most struck by the relics of the past—the religious police persuading shopkeepers to shut up shop for prayers, the absence of women on the streets except for the few black-veiled figures. Anyone who has stayed in the country for a few years is aware of the change which has come about in a very short time.

The transition from newspapers without pictures and pedestrian crossings with headless figures (to avoid representation of the human form) to television with popular singers are the outward signs of what is taking place. Rising national income, 40 per cent of oil revenues going to development, the exploitation of non-petroleum minerals, desalination and agricultural experimentation bring fundamental changes in society.

The fragility of reform is equally clear to see. The religious movement on which the Wahhabite empires were founded was reactionary as well as conservative. It derived from the Islamic school of law which was most resistant to innovation, and its founder rejected all that had been added to Islam since its third century. Abdul Aziz himself found the fanaticism of his warriors incompatible with the needs of statecraft, and crushed the Ikhwan revolt under Faisal al Dawish in 1929. King Faisal has not encountered any such dramatic resistance from the *ulema* who supported him in the struggle for power with Saud. There was some maverick opposition to the introduction of television and more solid resistance to girls' education—with which Faisal compromised by placing it under the direction of the *ulema* rather than the Minister of Education.

The question whether reform and development can move fast enough remains open. It is not a simple question. It is in part a matter of whether Islamic law can be made sufficiently flexible to permit economic development. The law of Islam lacks the precursor of Roman law which in Christian Europe provided much of the foundation for a modernizing state. In varying degrees Muslim states have therefore established courts on a western pattern to take over the administration of the law, often in all but personal matters. In Saudi Arabia little development has so far been undertaken in this direction, although the first commercial court was established in Jeddah in 1927. The penalties of stoning for adultery and cutting off the hands for theft are only now being pushed into desuetude rather than abolished, and extra-legal devices have to be found to permit interest and insurance.

It is not only law but social and personal habits and attitudes which must change to permit modernization. The corrosive corruption of Saud's reign no longer pervades the administration, but a trained and efficient civil service is still a dream of the future. Reform and development still rely heavily on foreigners—British teachers, Lebanese and Palestinians. The skills of the Beduin are unsurpassed in their own sphere ; but their subtle appreciation of the individual peculiarities of their camels and the devoted care given to them—even the more mechanized skill of celebrating safely with loaded rifles (and the safety catch off)—have not been easily adaptable to the maintenance of cars and typewriters. Slavery, which Faisal abolished in 1962, was harmful not only from humanitarian standards but from the habits it perpetuated of work unfit for self-respecting persons to engage in.

In the Eastern Province Aramco has slowly eroded old habits and successfully trained Saudis in modern skills. The change spreads slowly across the desert wastes to the rest of the country. Riyadh itself would be a pleasanter and more efficient town if the example of the American Aramco suburb had been followed—financed by the money which went into Saud's Nasariya palace.

While conservatism and the desert have hitherto kept Saudi Arabia so much in the past, its intellectuals and its princes, its educated and wealthy class have been free to travel where they will. They do not always have the pride of religion and nationalism which motivates Faisal and those like him. They find themselves and their country an object of amusement and derision. Their government can provide splendid displays, as at the Tripoli International Fair, which are models of courtesy and efficiency ; but young Arabs quote to them the assertion of the Vice-Rector of the Theological University of Medina that the sun goes round the earth.

For young Saudis the possibility of a political career does not exist. When Faisal took power from Saud he concentrated the offices of state in the hands of the other brothers who were loyal to him. He has emphasized the virtues of Arab democracy and denied the need for any form of assembly. But the absence of openings to political power does not necessarily threaten the stability of the state.

The Saud family has shown itself flexible enough to provide not only continuity but regeneration. So far custom and family ties have ensured that essential communication between government and the governed without which no state can be fully efficient. Faisal has never been faced with the problem confronting Naguib and Nasser when they took power in Egypt—knowing scarcely more than a handful of fellow officers in a population of more than 25 million. The two thousand or so princes who form the ruling elite of Saudi Arabia's 3,500,000 form a network of information and communication. The tradition of the desert has always been one of direct access to the top, and Faisal remains one of the world's most accessible heads of government, even though he has not made progress tours round his estate as his brother did.

The extent to which communication of this traditional kind proves flexible in more modern conditions, what it means to young men in the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals—indeed any knowledge of its detailed operation are not readily available to the outsider. Press and radio have been kept under strict government control but have lacked the positive direction, the giving of a party line which elsewhere has provided a key to the politics of closely controlled countries.

Even if the regime is subject to strains additional to those which can be detected from the outside, it is not easily vulnerable to Nasserist attack. Such attack is already in progress, and has caused alarm. Bombs have exploded in Riyadh and along Aramco's TAP line ; 17 Yemenis have been executed as a result. Meanwhile the Cairo press and radio have announced the existence of a " Federation of the People of the Arabian Peninsula," and exaggerate the extent and the glamour of terrorism.

Nasser has welcomed with open arms ex-King Saud (the charges of attempted assassination forgotten), who has set up house across the floor of the Hilton in Cairo. The full style of his retinue of sons and retainers, the chartered aircraft to bring his four safes of money from Athens produced a flurry of excitement in austere and professedly egalitarian Cairo ; the favour bestowed on Saud by President Nasser and the alliance Saud has made with the Yemeni republic are more incongruous.

A traditional Arab monarch cannot surround himself with an iron guard, and King Faisal is vulnerable to assassination. But the Saud family is many-headed. The formality of succession has been provided for by the nomination of Prince Khaled ibn Abdul-Aziz as Crown Prince—although in the event Prince Salman, the Governor of Riyadh or Prince Sultan, the present Minister of Defence, might prove the more effective monarch. Or, as in Kuwait, power might be shared between the family while Khaled remains king.

But political change in the Arab world has come neither from assassination nor intellectual discontent—it has followed military coups. Against such a coup Saudi Arabia has a traditional and a natural defence. The Royal Army is necessarily distant from the capital when it is guarding the frontier, and can be kept there even when it is not. In addition it is balanced by a National Guard—a traditional force, previously known as the White Guard, and drawn from Beduin tribes loyal to the king. The Royal Army has the advantage of advice from an American military mission ; the National Guard from a trio of British Officers.

No one, least of all Faisal, is likely to underestimate the direct threat to the kingdom from the war in Yemen, the bombing attacks across the frontier, and the possibility of an extension of the war into Saudi Arabia. In the face of this threat Faisal's strategy has not been confined to Islamic union. He has liquidated or put on ice some of the traditional disputes around the borders of the kingdom.

In 1962 Saudi-Hashemite rivalry, which had been a dominant theme in Middle Eastern politics since the First World War, was ended in an agreement which was of less practical importance than the proposed " full military union " would suggest, but no less significant politically for that. It was followed in 1965 by an adjustment of the frontier around Aqaba, giving Jordan some 12 extra miles of coastline. An agreement has been made with Kuwait, covering the zone which was left neutral between the two when it was important for nomad tribes rather than for oil.

To the east progress has been less easy. Saudi Arabia's outstanding irredentist claim is to the oasis of Buraimi—including the territory of the Shaikh of Abu Dhabi and the Sultan of Muscat and Oman, who have been supported, under treaty obligations, by the British Government. In 1955 British officered Omani scouts expelled a Saudi force which had occupied the oasis, and the British broke off the arbitration to which the dispute was submitted on the ground that the Saudis had tried to influence its outcome by the generous distribution of money.

The dispute was the real cause for the break in diplomatic relations at the time of the Suez expedition. A solution was sought, in a somewhat desultory manner, through the mediation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In 1963 Yemen was of more pressing importance than Buraimi, and the dispute (though not the oasis) was put on ice so that diplomatic relations could be renewed.

The importance of the oasis had been heightened by the discovery of oil in eastern Arabia, and the Saudi case before the arbitration tribunal was ably assisted by Aramco. The possibility of settlement has now been increased by the surrender by Aramco (under a standing agreement with the Saudi Government) of that part of its concession which goes into disputed territory. Optimism can also be derived from the replacement of Shaikh Shakbut of Abu Dhabi by his brother Zaid, who has an awareness of political issues to which Shakbut did not aspire.

But nothing has happened to alter the deep feeling of Faisal and his generation that Saudi honour is at stake, that they have been defeated and tricked out of what is rightfully theirs, and that honour must be regained and restitution made. Their feelings are deepened by long standing rivalry with the Sultan of Muscat. Faisal not only disputes the Sultan's authority over the Oman tribes but has only contempt for a ruler who isolates himself in his palace at 'Salala and neglects the interests of those he claims to rule. He gives shelter to dissident Omanis in Saudi Arabia and is fully alive to the possibility of their discontent being exploited from Cairo.

Such settlement as there has been on the borders of the kingdom has been accompanied by a diplomatic realignment which forms the most important change in Saudi Arabia's international position. In the old days of King Farouk ties had been close between Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Saudi money was invested in Egypt and young people educated there ; Egyptian teachers and advisers came to Arabia, sometimes occupying key positions.

Community of interest was not broken when Nasser took power, for there was a common rival in the Hashemite kingdoms of Jordan and Iraq. Saudi money was spent to limit Hashemite power and to counter Iraqi influence in Syria. Anthony Eden bitterly resented the fact that Saudi subversion played Nasser's game against the British position in the Middle East—while the American government insisted on regarding Aramco as a Saudi company, a purely commercial affair which gave the U.S. no right to seek to influence Saudi policy.

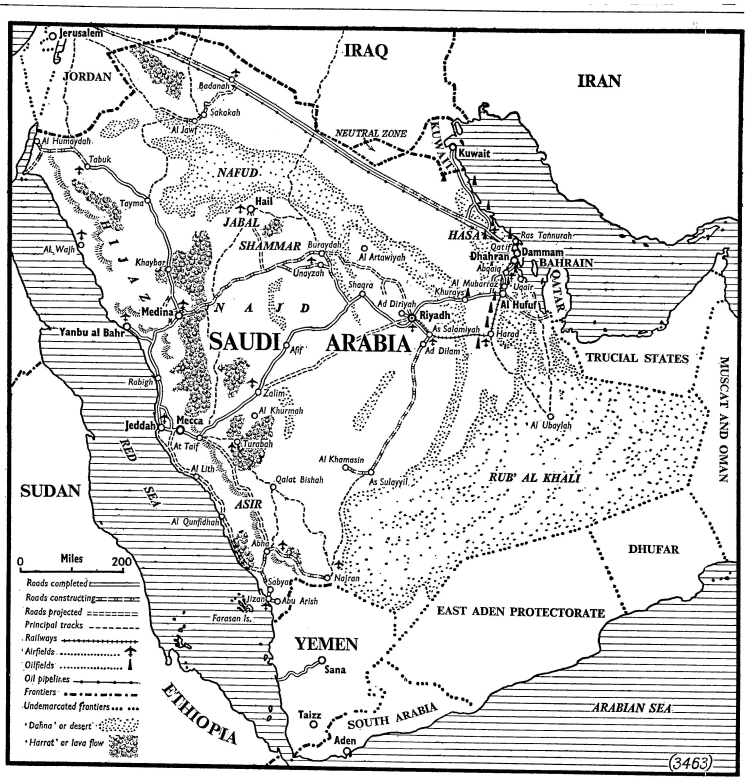
Now all this has changed, and there is a strong community of interest between Britain, the United States and Saudi Arabia.

Community of interest is never the same as identity. Faisal's experience and memory are long, and he led his country's delegation at the United Nations when, as he saw it " the two blocks " combined to frustrate the Arabs over Palestine. More immediately Yemen is at the centre of Faisal's preoccupations, while the United States must relate it to a global strategy. Britain has decided that she has no essential interests which she must defend in South Arabia, and believes that withdrawal from the west of the Arabian peninsula is consistent with the maintenance of her position, at least for the foreseeable future, in the east.

King Faisal cannot disinterest himself from what goes on in South Arabia and keeps a free hand to take advantage of events as they develop. He consults with the British government without being tied to the tortuous course of their policy and avoids dropping any gauntlets which Nasser might take up.

It is not only with Britain and America that relations have drawn closer. When Islamic union was first launched, Faisal went to Teheran and won the warm support of the Shah of Iran. Between the foreign policies of the two countries important differences remain—Iran's acceptance of Israel and its purchase of arms from the Soviet Union the most obvious of them. But the two monarchs have recognized a common interest in the maintenance of stability in the Persian Gulf. The problem of the Gulf shaikhdoms is not thereby solved ; but it is placed in a very much more favourable context.

Although King Faisal's position is not one to excite envy, it is said that his health has improved remarkably with the responsibilities of office. Committed alike to tradition and reform, sharing power with only the few who are closest to him, he sees his kingdom embattled by forces which can stage coups and throw bombs more easily than they can reconstruct society. He commands respect.



Leadership in the struggle for Arab unity.
Wilfrid Knapp

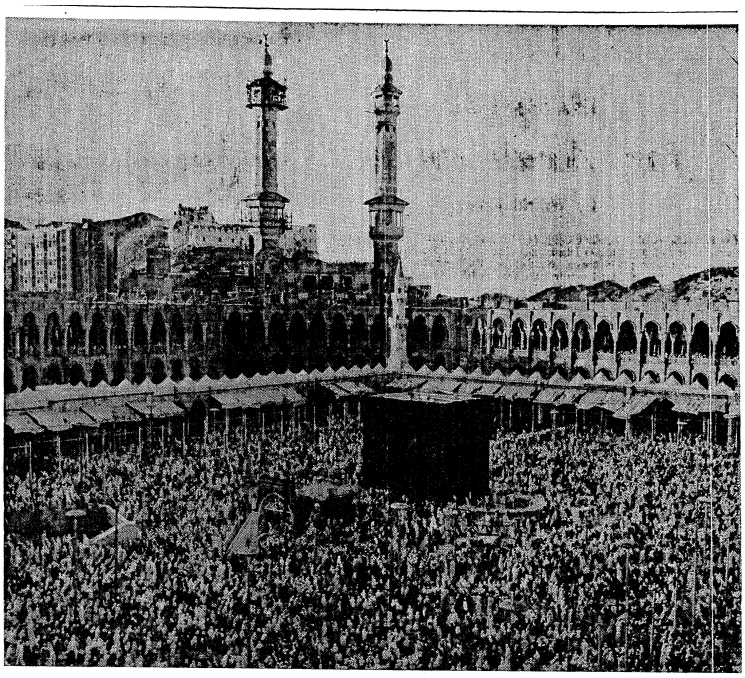
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The heart of Islam—Prophet, Koran and Law

by Charles Beckingham
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ALTHOUGH SAUDI ARABIA has some eight million inhabitants and about 800,000 square miles of territory, much of it desert and much more arid steppe, she is by no means the most populous or most powerful of the Muslim countries. But, apart from the wealth she derives from oil, she has a special place in the consciousness of Muslims. Believers everywhere in the world must hope to visit Saudi Arabia at least once in their lives since the pilgrimage to Mecca is one of the formal obligations which, with some exceptions, Islam imposes upon all its adherents.

A ruler whose dominions included Mecca, the birthplace of Mahomet, and Medina, where he spent the last 10 years of his life, organized his community, died and was buried, has always enjoyed peculiar prestige. Among others Saladin, the Mameluke Sultans of Egypt and the Ottoman Padishahs have been proud to call themselves Guardians of the Holy Places.

There is a sense in which Saudi Arabia is the Muslim land par excellence. It is also one where the impact of modern technology upon a devout and traditional society has been particularly abrupt. The kingdom owes its existence to the religious movement generally known as Wahhabi, which originated in the remote oasis of Central Arabia in the mid-eighteenth century, and to the valour, skill and loyalty with which it was championed by the House of Saud.

The movement was revivalist in religion, and fundamentalist in its attitude to the Koran, fervently denouncing sins most of which the tribesmen of Najd had no opportunity to commit. The present kingdom, created by the political genius of the great Abdul Aziz ibn Saud (1902-53), is really the third Wahhabi empire.

In earlier days it was ruled in strict accordance with a puritan interpretation of Islam. Not only wine-drinking but smoking and all representations of living creatures were forbidden.

Into this society, where, except for the introduction of coffee and rifles, the physical conditions of life had changed little for 14 centuries, oil brought American finance and technology. The violence of the resulting contrast is certainly greater in Arabia than in, for example, Cairo, where the process of adaptation began in the Napoleonic age, but it is one which to some degree exists in all Muslim countries.

From the end of the seventeenth century Islamic states everywhere were increasingly unable to offer effective resistance to European armies, found themselves technically less efficient than the west, and many sank into colonies, dependencies, protectorates or, at best, feeble states preserving a precarious independence by exploiting the rivalries of the great powers, or enjoying the tranquility of those who possess nothing that anyone else can possibly want, as did most of Arabia until oil was discovered there.

By 1920 the overwhelming majority of Muslims throughout the world were under direct or indirect British, French, Dutch, Russian, or Italian rule. During the past half century the colonial empires have mostly vanished, often more rapidly than they arose. But certain of the ideas to which they adhered and the forms of organization which they adopted have come to dominate the world as never before.

It has been only by becoming westernized in certain important respects that the Muslim countries, and indeed many others, have been able to repudiate western domination. The dilemma of the devout Muslim confronted by this situation is as obvious as it is painful. In some respects the very nature of Islam and of Muslim history enhances his difficulty.

The creed which the convert to Islam is called upon to profess is extremely simple: "I testify that there is no God but God and that Mahomet is the prophet of God". It is tempting to think that in the seventh century, in the years immediately after Mahomet's death, when his followers overran the Hellenized lands of Syria and Egypt, the simplicity and intelligibility of these dogmas must have appealed strongly to a population that had suffered from the feuds and persecuting zeal of the multifarious Christian sects quarrelling about the Trinity and the Incarnation.

So far is the essential tradition of Muslim theology from anything of this kind that it has been claimed that in Islam the concept of God is merely agnostic. This is an exaggeration but Muslim theologians have emphasized the transcendence of God so much that at times He seems to be no more than something inconceivable that accounts for whatever happens. It is not difficult to believe in such a God.

Acceptance of Mahomet's prophetic status of course implies acceptance of the Book that was revealed to him, the Holy Koran, the uncreated Word of God. There are phrases in the Koran which are not easy for anyone in the twentieth century to accept literally, and even in early times there was much controversy about the meaning of some which seem to imply an anthropomorphic conception of the deity.

But here again the Muslim may resort to an almost agnostic defence. He may hold that what he is required to believe is only what the Holy Book says; he is not called upon to explain or interpret these Words, or to understand them in any particular sense.

The real difficulty does not derive from the Koran, or from dogma at all, but rather from the Holy Law. It has been well said that law is the essence of Islam, which prescribes not only certain beliefs but a way of life, often in considerable detail.

From the first Muslims constituted a community following such a way of life, as well as accepting common beliefs about the duties and destiny of man. The Holy Law, or Sharia, embraces all human activities. It derives partly from certain specific prescriptions in the Koran and partly from an elaborate systematization of what are alleged to have been the acts and sayings of the Prophet.

In this way everything a man can do falls into one of five categories, acts which are commanded, recommended, indifferent, discountenanced, or forbidden. In Islam the ingenuity, and some would say perversity, which Christians devoted to those subtleties of dogmatic theology which occasioned such hilarious pages in Gibbon, was expended rather on the elaboration of the law, on determining the legal status of highly improbable or even impossible actions.

There was a jurist of distinction in Muslim Spain who was at pains to establish that it would not be lawful for a believer to ride on a camel if it had drunk wine. The basis of the objection is that wine is forbidden to the Muslim and that, if a camel drank any, some of it might percolate through its hide when the animal perspired, and so be brought into contact with the body of the rider.

Whether a camel would drink wine I do not know. Considering some of the liquids that it does drink it seems highly probable that it would; I have never myself given one the chance. In any event its opportunities of doing so must always have been severely restricted and the legal pronouncement in question can only have had the most limited practical significance. Indeed, this elaboration of the Holy Law was not primarily the achievement of working judges but of scholars who generally tried to avoid ever having the responsibility of presiding over a court. It was developed and expounded rather as an end in itself than as something likely to be enforced in practice.

In fact, only certain provisions were normally operative and in Islam as in Christianity there has been no shortage of legal fictions by which the more inconvenient provisos might be circumvented. There is indeed a strong tradition of pragmatism in Islam in regard to all matters of government. An extremely convenient dictum ascribed to the Prophet can act as a check upon the more esoteric developments, for he is believed to have said: "My people will never agree upon error." Thus whatever becomes the accepted practice of the community cannot be wrong.

It remains only to determine who is and who is not a member of the community. In Islam as in Christianity there have been small groups prepared to condemn as unbelievers all who do not accept their own particular creed. Another saying ascribed to Mahomet is dear to such exclusive communities, "Of the Jews there are 70 sects, of the Christians there are 71, of my people there should be 72, and of these all but one shall dwell in hell fire."

Yet even among such fanatical minorities there are features of Islam which mitigate sectarian bitterness, for it is a religion without sacraments and without a priestly hierarchy. The believer is answerable to God and his infringements of His Law will meet with condign punishment on the Last Day. There is no priest with powers of absolution; there are only doctors of the law licensed to state what its prescriptions are. In such a religion it is perhaps misleading to talk of sects at all and there are scholars who would reject the term.

Ideally, Muslims should form one community united in obedience to the Holy Law and guided by the Caliph, the inheritor of Mahomet's temporal leadership of the community, though not of his prophetic authority, since he was the last of the prophets. In practice the community has not been united since the first generation but the great Muslim empires were much more than mere national states where the religion of the rulers and the majority happened to be Islam.

In them all the position of the Holy Law was theoretically unassailable, however lax a ruler might be about applying or even observing it. Many Muslim princes, including some of the most famous of the Great Moguls and Ottoman Sultans were notorious drunkards. Selim II, known as the Sot, is said by the chroniclers to have been influenced in his decision to undertake the conquest of Cyprus by his enthusiasm for its wine. One wonders what might have been the political consequences if he had ever tasted good Claret or Burgundy. Yet he had no power to make wine drinking legal or even to alter the prescribed penalty for it; he could only neglect to do anything about it.

The social and financial organization of these empires was not national but religious. Their subjects were not only not equal before the law. They were not even subject to the same law. Each recognized religious community, such as the Jews or Orthodox Christians, was subject to its own canon law in all such matters as divorce and inheritance, administered by rabbinical or ecclesiastical courts, and its own clerical authorities had the right to levy taxes on the community and to call upon the assistance of the Muslim authorities to enforce payment.

After the British had assumed responsibility for the administration of Cyprus, the Greek Orthodox clergy were disconcerted when they found that such support was no longer available to them.

Islamic society was thus organized in states which were political entities of an altogether different kind from those of western Europe. Moreover, the experience of subjugation to non-Muslim powers was not merely disagreeable, it was almost entirely unprecedented, and it was one for which Muslim thinkers had not prepared their co-religionists.

Unlike the early Christians who were for some three centuries liable to violent persecutions, the Muslims were independent from the first, organizing themselves under the leadership of their Prophet and coming within his lifetime to rule over some who rejected Islam. Within 10 years of his death his followers had conquered the countries of the Fertile Crescent and Egypt and a majority of the Caliph's subjects were certainly Christians.

There was already in existence a precedent to determine the status of adherents of other revealed religions and the success of this system perhaps explains why all these countries that had been under Hellenistic or Roman rule for nearly a millennium have remained subject to Islam almost uninterruptedly since the first conquest.

Societies such as these, governed in many matters by divinely revealed and unalterable laws, and organized as religious, not ethnic communities found it difficult to adapt themselves to a world of secular national states. It used to be fashionable to say that Islam was incapable of change and to suppose that it was incompatible with material or intellectual progress of any kind.

In the nineteenth century there were many Europeans who expected it to decay. In fact it has shown, not for the first time in history, an astonishing resilience.

Nationalism was inimical to the greatest Islamic empire of the nineteenth century, the Ottoman. The Arab Christian and the Arab Muslim were beginning to feel a common bond against the Muslim Turk but with the disintegration of the Turkish empire this has altered. In some countries the feeling of solidarity among Muslims is itself becoming the basis of national consciousness.

Pakistan owes its existence to Muslim awareness of a separate identity that proved too strong to be merged in a common Indian nationalism. Yet not all Pakistanis are strict Muslims. Among Muslims everywhere who have received a western education, attachment to Islam is often strong but may be accompanied by astounding ignorance of its precepts and a readiness to act in almost any situation like a European secularist.

Islam is for them no longer a rule by which to govern their lives so much as a focus of loyalty. In Africa, where Islam is sometimes in competition with Christianity for the conversion of a pagan population, it has the advantage of being regarded as an Afro-Asian religion, Christianity, in disregard of history, being condemned as European.

The situation is complicated by the political fragmentation of the Arab world. Those Muslim states which are most nearly homogeneous in race and language as well as religion often lack a sense of identity as well as economic viability. The Arabic-speaking countries do not constitute a geographical, racial or economic unit and in some there are non-Muslim communities of appreciable size like the Christians who constitute about half the population of Lebanon.

There is not only a possibility of conflict between loyalty to the world-wide community of Islam and to the state of which they are subjects, but for Arabs, between loyalty to that state and to Arab nationality. There are further local, religious and linguistic links which create groups conscious of their own identity with claims on the loyalty of their members. For the European life is in comparison very simple.

The Muslim countries have almost always been monarchies, though not in precisely the European sense of the term, and the titles of sultan and caliph do not really correspond to king and emperor. This has sometimes led Europeans to think of all Muslim countries as having been governed by irresponsible autocrats.

In fact, the Muslim despot had no power whatever to alter the Holy Law. God was the sole legislator, and Muslim apologists can claim that in Islam the ruler is subject to the law in a more rigid way than ever in the west, since he cannot even help to change it.

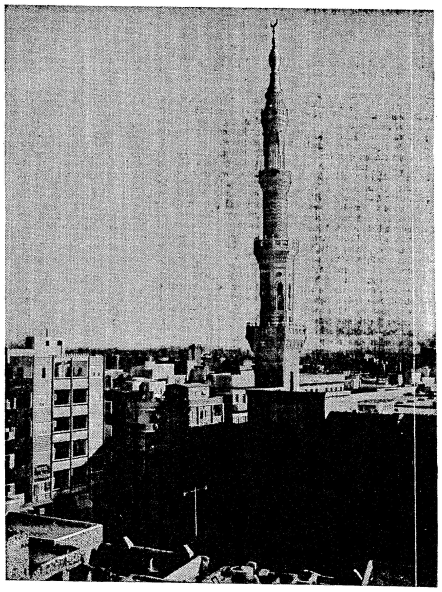
Other arguments have been used to prove that the true Islamic society is and can only be democratic. The principles of consultation and of consensus were and still are of paramount importance among Arab tribes; they have been influential throughout Islamic history since the consensus of the community is accorded such importance as a criterion of theological validity.

In theory at least the caliphs were elected. The equality of believers has not been limited by the existence of priests with sacramental powers, for there are no priests and no sacraments in Islam. Democracy as it has come to be understood in western Europe and North America is something quite different from traditional Islamic society, but there is no lack of precedents and pronouncements in Islam which can be used to justify the adoption by Muslim countries of western political systems when they find it practical and convenient to do so.

To the European administrators who came to govern so large a proportion of the Muslims of the world, despotism was not the only undesirable feature which seemed inseparable from Islamic societies. Social enlightenment appeared to them to be as incompatible as political freedom with a religion which recognized slavery, allowed a man to have four legal wives at a time, to divorce any of them at any time if he wished and to have sexual relations with an unlimited number of concubines.

For the high-minded Victorian administrators of the Muslim provinces of the Indian empire these were probably the most repellent features of Islam and many of them felt that such a religion was incompatible with social advance of any kind, and that its adherents must either abandon it or reconcile themselves to permanent subjection to more enlightened peoples. Muslim apologists have retorted justly that in some respects the coming of Islam did represent social progress, that slaves must be treated kindly, that it is highly meritorious for a believer to free them, and that the Koran contains an impressive denunciation of the old Arabian practice of female infanticide.

True as this is, however, when laws framed in a tribal context become immutable their functioning in the very different world of an industrial society can be disconcerting. Yet the forebodings of evangelical proconsuls have proved mistaken. As social conditions have changed slavery has disappeared just as it disappeared in Europe long before it was regarded as an institution condemned by the Christian ethic.



Above: Pilgrims surround the Kaaba, the centre of the Great Mosque in Mecca. It is towards the Kaaba that Muslims turn, wherever they are, during their daily prayers.

Right: a corner of the Prophet's Mosque in Medina.

Polygamy has declined in the same way. The Muslim modernist cites the Koranic injunction to treat all wives equally and argues that as this would be beyond the capacity of any ordinary man, the precept is tantamount to enjoining monogamy. But whether he finds this convincing or not, the Cairene or Damascene who lives under similar conditions and has similar aspirations regarding the amenities of his home, family holidays and the education of his children is no more likely to be able to afford or even to want a plurality of wives than a Londoner or Parisian.

Polygamy survives but has long been rare in the more westernized countries and is discouraged or even forbidden in a variety of ways by many Muslim governments.

The status of the Holy Law does cause difficulty. It is by definition God's Law and it is not for man to amend it. Different courses of action have been adopted. Ataturk adopted laicism as a fundamental principle of his republic. Though the overwhelming majority of Turks are Muslims the State is secular and religion is, in theory at least, a matter of private conscience.

It has, however, several times been necessary for the Turkish Parliament to enact amnesty laws to regularize the status of persons whose marriages have not conformed to the requirements of the civil code but only to those of the Sharia. Elsewhere, where Islam is the state religion there are various devices which enable the Holy Law to be circumvented in practice while it is theoretically left intact. The state may for example not recognize a marriage for certain administrative purposes until it has been registered, and then make monogamy a prerequisite of registration.

Some Muslims are willing to go further still and do not regard the present formulation of the law as immutable. They would, in a way familiar in the west, argue that its precise prescriptions are related to specific circumstances which no longer obtain, that we should carefully and conscientiously deduce the principles on which they were formulated and then apply those principles to the very different situation in which we now find ourselves.

Others again would reject or regard as expendable everything that is not explicitly enjoined in the Koran. The bulk of the multifarious provisions of the Sharia are not to be found in the Koran but are taken from, or derived by analogy from the vast collection of sayings and actions ascribed to the Prophet which were recorded, analysed and commented upon with immense patience and industry by generations of scholars.

Because of the inadequate criteria of reliability which they used, despite the care with which they scrutinized their sources, some of what they transmitted certainly cannot be referred to Mahomet himself, and although some almost certainly can, very much more is at best of doubtful authenticity.

Yet probably the most generally acceptable solution and one that is not without parallel in other religions, is to leave the Sharia aside, intact and immutable, allegedly a description of the godly life of the primitive community, a rule which those who wish may follow and a pattern for the ideal society which will again be realized only towards the end of time, something too sacred to be contaminated by the exigencies of ensuring the community's survival in the twentieth century. It will thus continue to be an object of study and contemplation for the pious, while the effective legislation of the Muslim world will be influenced by it as much as that of Christendom has been by the Beatitudes.

The heart of Islam-Prophet, Koran and Law.
by Charles Beckingham Professor of Islamic Studies, University of London

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Category: News

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Liquid gold from the desert sands

by Bryan Cooper

AFTER REGAINING last year the lead in Middle East oil production which it had lost to Kuwait in 1953, Saudi Arabia is now the world's fourth largest oil-producer, following the United States, Russia and Venezuela, with reserves totalling more than the first two of these countries put together. Production from the major oilfields, which are in the north-east of Saudi Arabia, is this year running at a rate of some 130m. tons a year.

Over three-quarters of this is exported as crude oil and refined products from the Gulf refineries and marine terminals of Ras Tanura, on the mainland, and Awali, on Bahrain island. The remainder is carried by the 1,070-mile Trans-Arabian Pipeline to the Mediterranean terminal at Sidon, in the Lebanon.

Oil in Saudi Arabia is dominated by American interests, particularly the Aramco giant which is made up of a 30 per cent shareholding each by Standard California, Standard New Jersey, and Texaco, and 10 per cent by Socony Mobil. For many years, Aramco was the sole operating company. But as a result of surrendering large tracts of their concession area during the past 10 years, new companies are making an appearance. A Japanese group is producing oil from offshore the Neutral Zone between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and Getty Oil is operating on land in the same area.

After an agreement ratified in April, 1965, between the government and the French state-owned oil group, Auxerap now has three onshore and offshore concession areas along the Red Sea coast and began drilling its first well in March this year near the Yemen border. Negotiations have been taking place for some months with other foreign interests, including ENI, the Italian state oil monopoly, several American companies, and Hispanoil, the Spanish state group, over new concessions in the central area of Saudi Arabia. Some agreements may be announced shortly; when they are, they will almost certainly provide for participation by Saudi Arabia's own state body, Petromin, which already has a 40 per cent interest in the Auxerap exploration.

During the past few years, almost every major producing country in the Arab world has formed its own state oil company, and Saudi Arabia is no exception. This is now an integral part of the Middle East oil scene, and while the traditional bargaining continues with the established oil companies to try and increase the revenues from royalties and taxation, governments are equally keen to take part themselves in oil production and marketing and extend into other areas of industry, such as petrochemicals. This kind of partnership, together with higher taxation rates and bonus payments, is the price that the new, smaller companies have to pay in order to establish a foothold in countries that were previously the province of the eight major international oil groups.

Many of the new ideas now generally accepted in the Middle East came from Saudi Arabia. It was here that the 50—50 profit-sharing principle had its beginning, at the end of 1950. This became the objective of every other producing country and had a profound effect on Middle East oil economics. Having been accepted, and in view of the firm hold on world markets by the major companies, it was difficult for the government negotiators to advance much beyond these terms.

A way was found by persuading the majors to surrender rights over unexplored areas and then offering these to new operators, at much higher terms. Here again, Saudi Arabia set the trend, first by the agreement with Getty for the Saudi Arabian half of the Neutral Zone and then, in 1957, by achieving what was virtually a 60—40 agreement with the Japanese company, Arabian Oil, for the offshore rights in the same area.

Much of Saudi Arabia's success in the harsh world of royalty bargaining is due to the existence of a stable political regime, little affected by the movements for political emancipation which have caused unrest in neighbouring countries, so that government officials could concentrate on the job on hand. Also, perhaps ironically, many of these officials receive their training in oil affairs in the United States, where they were taught the intricacies of the industry as part of Aramco's educational programme.

The predominance of American interests in Saudi Arabia, where not a single British oil company has ever operated, was not originally due to any particular intention on the part of the Saudis or by the deposed King Saud, who granted the first concessions. These could have been taken up by British companies—but they declined to do so. During the 1920s although the great oilfields of Persia were under development and oil had been found in Egypt and elsewhere, they did not rate the chances of finding oil in Arabia very high and they were also wary of the political instability in the region.

It was, however, due mainly to the pioneering efforts of a New Zealander, Major Frank Holmes, and a London syndicate, Eastern and General, for whom he worked at first, that oil was developed here. Holmes travelled extensively in eastern Arabia, and as well as obtaining the Kuwait concession, later operated jointly by BP and Gulf Oil, he obtained the first exploration permit from Ibn Saud for the al-Hasa province, on behalf of Eastern and General. No work was done, however, and in 1928 the permit expired. In 1930, Standard California applied for a similar permit, but was refused.

In 1932, again due to the efforts of Holmes, oil was discovered on the island of Bahrain—by American companies, after Shell and BP (then Anglo-Iranian) had turned down the offer of a concession. This was significant as the first oil discovery in south-east Arabia and made the chances of finding oil on the mainland to the west look much more attractive.

By now, Ibn Saud had established his authority in what had become Saudi Arabia. But the country was economically at a very low ebb, unable to be self-supporting in food production and with no industry or, so it seemed, exploitable minerals.

At this time, an American mining engineer, Karl Twitchell, was in Saudi Arabia trying to locate artesian water. He was not successful, but his travellings led him to become interested in the possibility of finding oil. He aroused Ibn Saud's interest and then, when Bahrain became a producer, he returned to the United States on the king's behalf to find a suitable company to undertake exploration.

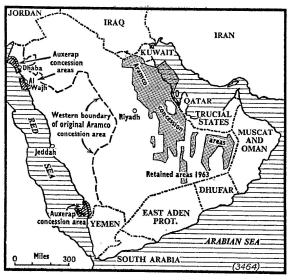
Standard California, which had previously shown an interest in the area, agreed to send a negotiator, who accompanied Twitchell back to Saudi Arabia in 1933. At this point, now that the chances of finding oil looked more promising, the predominantly-British Iraq Petroleum Company tried to prevent the concession going to the Americans.

But the directors were so ponderous in coming to any decision to meet the terms being discussed that on May 29, 1933, Ibn Saud gave the concession to Standard California. It covered the whole of eastern Saudi Arabia for a period of 60 years, and assured preferential treatment over the rest of the country. The initial payment was for a sum of 30,000 gold sovereigns —and these were solemnly counted out in Jeddah a few weeks later.

In addition, the company agreed to make minimum annual payments of 5,000 sovereigns, two loans of 50,000 sovereigns each, if and when commercial oil was discovered, and royalty payments of four shillings per ton (again in gold). The company would be exempt from taxation and customs duties, but would progressively release unwanted lands.

The concession was assigned to a Standard California subsidiary, the California Arabian Standard Oil Company. Three years later, the Texas Company took up a half share in this, and in 1946, in order to raise additional capital for expansion, the company was broadened still further to include Standard New Jersey and Socony Mobil—the name having been changed in 1945 to Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco).

Exploration began in September, 1933, and a promising rock structure was soon found at Dhahran, five miles in from the coastal village of Dammam on the Gulf. The first well was drilled in April, 1935, but this, and others that followed, was not successful. The oilmen persevered, and shortly after New Year's Day of 1938, their seventh well located large quantities of oil. While the field was being developed, a coastal terminal was built at Ras Tanura and a pipeline to connect it to Dhahran. By May, 1939, it had been completed and the first exports of oil from Saudi Arabia left for the Caltex markets in the East. By the end of that year, 525,000 tons has been shipped by tanker.



The outbreak of war brought a reduction of activity in Saudi Arabia, and what little oil was exported went by barge to the refinery on the island of Bahrain, where it was processed into finished products. Some exploration still continued, and in November, 1940, resulted in the discovery of a much larger oilfield at Abqaiq, 25 miles inland from Dhahran.

But development was temporarily suspended. By 1943, work had declined to such an extent that the United States Government, concerned about the heavy demands being made on American oil, suggested taking a majority shareholding in the company, similar to the British Government's shareholding in BP, to stimulate development. Another scheme, announced early the following year, was for the Government and the company to form a joint undertaking for the construction of a pipeline across Saudi Arabia to the Mediterranean, where the oil would be more accessible. Neither of these projects came to anything, although the pipeline was in fact built five years later by private enterprise.

But the threatened intervention by the U.S. Government led to renewed activity in Saudi Arabia. During 1945 a refinery was built and came into operation at Ras Tanura, and a 34-mile, partially-submerged pipeline was built from Dhahran to Bahrain refinery. Also, a new oilfield was located at Qatif, near the coast between Ras Tanura and Dhahran. Further lines were constructed to link the various wells and oilfields, and production in 1945 was raised to 2.5m. tons, compared with 1m. tons the year before.

This began an unprecedented increase in production during the postwar years. As world demand soared, so development in Saudi Arabia went forward at a tremendous pace. From 8m. tons in 1946, production went to 12m., 19m., 23m., 26m., until by 1951 it has reached 37m. and was the highest in the Middle East.

Another significant event occurred in 1945. The United States had put forward a claim that any country should own all mineral rights and exercise authority over the whole of its offshore area extending out to the edge of the Continental Shelf. This had a particular relevance in the Gulf, which geologists thought to have a very good oil potential. Also, as a result of technical developments during the war, it was now a practical proposition to drill exploratory wells in the sea-bed under the waters of the Gulf. Although a number of land boundaries in the area were still being disputed, the countries concerned began laying claim to the offshore areas of the Gulf.

The actual United Nations Continental Shelf Convention was not drawn up until 1958, and even then not ratified until some years later, but long before that, the Middle East governments had come to agreements with each other over the main boundaries. In the 2,000 square miles neutral zone between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, shared equally by the two countries, they agreed on a division of the offshore area. And in the waters between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, an agreement was made to share equally the revenue from any oil found there.

To obtain a concession for that part of Saudi Arabia's offshore area in the Gulf that was not included in the neutral zone, Aramco had to agree in 1948 to the surrender of its rights in the zone, on land, which it had been granted in 1939. Saudi Arabia then put this land concession up to auction and, for very severe terms, it was taken up by a company in which Paul Getty was the majority shareholder.

Meanwhile, various American independent interests, combined together as Aminoil, had obtained a concession over the Kuwait half of the zone. The two operating companies got together to establish a joint working arrangement and began drilling at Wafra at the end of 1949. Three years of unsuccessful drilling followed, although the companies still had to pay high concession dues to the tune of £12m. by the end of 1952. During the following year they returned to the Wafra area and, as so often in oil exploration, discovered oil in commercial quantities very near the site of the first abandoned well. Wafra proved to be a major field, but it has now passed its peak and production has lately been declining to a rate of some 8m. tons a year.

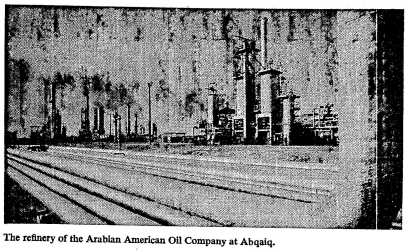
Meanwhile, in Saudi Arabia, intensive new exploration followed the broadening of Aramco in 1946 to include the two additional American oil companies. This was richly rewarded, and to the existing fields of Dhahran, Abqaiq, Qatif and abu Hadriya were added new discoveries, the most important being the Ain Dar field discovered in June, 1948, 25 miles south-west of Abqaiq. This was to have a great significance a few years later on. Offshore exploration in the Gulf also went ahead, and in the spring of 1957, in 20ft. of water in the north, near the neutral zone border, the Safaniya oil-field was discovered, later to become the biggest offshore oil-field in the world. A smaller offshore field, Manifa, was found at the end of the same year.

With additional capital available, Aramco began in 1947 to build the Trans-Arabian Pipeline that had originally been suggested by the United States Government. Stretching 1,070 miles across the desert from Ras Tanura to Sidon, in the Lebanon, this was one of the great engineering feats of all time. It took nearly four years to build, and at its peak the work force totalled 2,000 Americans and 15,000 Saudis. More than 265,000 tons of 31-inch and 32-inch pipe went into its construction. When completed, it took 15 days and nearly five million barrels of oil to fill it.

The first tanker shipments left Sidon on December 2, 1950, saving in the journey to western Europe some 3,500 miles and up to £6,000 in Suez Canal fees a tanker cargo. The pipeline cost nearly £90m. and had a capacity of 15m. tons a year, which could later be increased to 25m. tons by the addition of further pumping stations.

Operating in a relatively calm political climate, unlike some of the neighbouring countries, and because of an enlightened policy with regard to social and educational amenities, Aramco's relations with Ibn Saud and his ministers were normally harmonious. But the great success of Aramco's operations and the knowledge that royalty talks were going on elsewhere led in 1950 to Saudi pressure for higher payments than those agreed in 1933.

After negotiations, a new agreement was announced on December 30, 1950, establishing the first 50-50 profit-sharing principle in the Middle East. This marked a milestone in oil economics and became the objective of every other oil-producing country. But while it greatly increased Saudi Arabia's revenues, it still did not satisfy some of the ministers and further concessions were made by Aramco in 1952. These included the move of Aramco's entire board from New York to headquarters in Dhahran, the appointment of two Saudi directors, the relinquishment of more unexplored territory, and the fact that profit-sharing would be reckoned before instead of after U.S. taxation. Again, these set a new goal for other Arab governments to aim for. The Saudi Arabian treasury now had revenues 30 times larger than in 1940, increasing from £500,000 to £15m. by 1952. The government embarked on a new social welfare programme, although at this time a high proportion of the wealth still went to meet the claims of the large royal family and its many dependents.



The refinery of the Arabian American Oil Company at Abqaiq.

During this same year, 1952, the great discovery was made that the Ain Dar field and the more recent finds at Uthmaniya and Shedgum were really part of one tremendous oilfield, extending over 135 miles in length. Named the Ghawar field, it was to rank as one of the best half-dozen in the world, accounting for more than one-third of Aramco's total output, which had reached 41m. tons by 1952. This made Aramco the greatest producing company in the world, only to be beaten the following year by the Kuwait Oil Co. It was not until 1966 that Aramco regained its lead position.

Aramco's expansion continued steadily, both in production and refining. And Saudi Arabia too took further steps towards modernization and industrialization, bringing into the Government qualified Saudi oil experts, often trained in America. While Aramco's agreement remained virtually unchanged, with the exception of further relinquishments, much stiffer terms were demanded of any newcomers, especially after the unprecedented Neutral Zone terms.

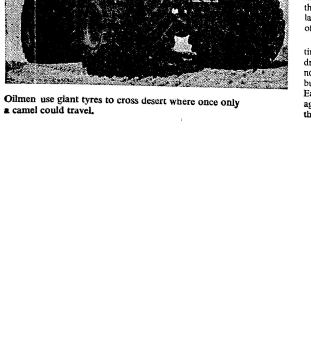
Some companies were driven away by such demands, including Standard Indiana which had sought a concession in the Preferential Area. But there was always someone who needed oil just that much more. One such group was made up of Japanese business interests, including Mitsui and Mitsubishi, who in 1957 made a successful offer for offshore rights in the Continental Shelf off the Saudi Arabian half of the Neutral Zone.

Driven by Japan's urgent need for crude oil sources of its own, the Arabian Oil Company, as the operating company was called, was willing to agree to terms higher than anywhere else, amounting virtually to a 60-40 share of profits. Some months later, the company also obtained a concession over Kuwait's half of the area, in the face of considerable competition from Europe and America. After losing a drilling platform by suddenly striking high pressure gas, oil in commercial quantities was found in January, 1960, and a terminal base established on the coast at Ras al-Khafji. It has recently been discovered that Khafji and Safaniya are part of the same field, and of such a size that Aramco and Arabian Oil between them propose to produce a total of some 85m. tons a year from the structure.

The most recent discovery to be developed is the offshore field of Abu sa'fah, between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. It came into production early last year at a rate of 1,900,000 tons a year. Profits are shared equally by the two countries.

The great increase in Saudi Arabia's oil production over the past 10 years, made possible primarily by the development of the vast Ghawar field and the offshore discoveries of Safaniya and Khafji, has more than doubled the revenues from oil—from about £107m. in 1956 to more than £228m. in 1965, accounting for well over three-quarters of the country's total income. But over and above the immediate financial benefits, Saudi Arabia is playing an important role in the development of the Middle East.

Just as many of today's royalty agreements began here, so Saudi Arabia is providing an indication of things to come in the way of increasing industrialization, with the use of natural gas, once considered a waste product, and petroleum chemicals. Now, through the state body Petromin, Saudi Arabia is wanting not just to share in the profits from oil production, but to take an active part in the industry itself. It is significant that most of the concessions now being discussed, and the one agreed since the formation of Petromin, with Auxerap, are not with the major oil companies but with the state oil concerns of the consuming countries, involving participation on a partnership basis.



Oilmen use giant tyres to cross desert where once only a camel could travel.

Help for the over-developed

by Richard Sachs

"It's lucky that we are now in a position to help the over-developed nations."—*Saudi businessman to Lord Rhodes, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, May, 1966.*

BEHIND WHAT WAS presumably intended as a jest—certainly Lord Rhodes quoted it as such—lies more than a grain of truth. One of the several ironies that characterizes the Saudi economy is the substantial scale on which it contributes to—in addition to drawing on—the various specialized agencies of the United Nations. Of the $170m. pledged by 109 countries to the U.N. development programme for 1967, Saudi Arabia is responsible for $300,000—a sum that puts her thirtieth (equal with Kuwait and Mexico) in the world league. Of all Middle East countries, only the United Arab Republic ($436,982) and Iran ($380,000) have promised more.

One explanation, at least, for such open-handedness on the part of a nation generally (if loosely) classed as under-developed must lie in the disparity between the country's immense revenues and the size of its population: a nation supporting barely four million on a budget of over £400m. can reasonably afford to be generous.

All the same, Saudi Arabia is proud—and rightly proud, in view of her short history as a modern nation—of her record as one of the 50 founder members of the United Nations in 1945; and her present King was for a number of years his country's chief U.N. representative. The seriousness with which she takes her international responsibilities is real enough.

It is in this light that the extent of U.N. technical aid to Saudi Arabia should be considered. $787,500 have been ear-marked for sending U.N. experts to assist the country during 1967 and 1968; and since 1960 nearly $6m. have been allocated under the U.N. Development Programme (U.N.D.P.) to specific projects for the nation's economic and social development. The total cost of these projects is estimated at over $20m., of which the Saudi Arabian Government is responsible for the balance.

First, the experts. Who are they, and what is their function? Over 100 of them are at present in the country, recruited chiefly from six of the U.N. specialized agencies:

	Number of experts as at August 1966
Technical Assistance Organization	23
World Health Organization ..	19
Food and Agriculture Organization ..	18
International Labour Organization ..	15
International Civil Aviation Organization ..	14
U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ..	12

Among the other U.N. agencies from which Saudi Arabia has recently received technical experts are the International Telecommunications Organization (three were operating in the country in August, 1966), the World Meteorological Organization, the Universal Postal Union, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (one from each).

Originally under the auspices of the U.N. expanded programme of technical assistance (established 1950), then of its Special Fund (1959) and now of the U.N.D.P. (formed out of the two, voted by the U.N. General Assembly at the end of 1965) a total of some 250 such experts have been involved in planning and implementing technical aid for Saudi Arabia.

Most of them come in teams of up to five strong and stay for at least nine months—often much longer; many of them have returned to the country several times during the past eight years.

Always they are assisted, and in many cases later replaced, by Saudi nationals for whom the U.N. has arranged grants for study and practical training overseas. (Since 1959 over 150 such awards have been made—the majority of them in the U.A.R., Lebanon and Britain.) They operate in every sector of the nation's social and economic growth—improving its health and education, planning its communications and industry, and especially developing its agriculture.

In a country where sand erosion is rife and water resources are chronically scarce, problems of irrigation are necessarily acute. So also, since distances are vast and communications tenuous, is the problem of supplying water to the urban centres. Such problems are custom-built for solution by the Food and Agriculture Organization, and in the past six years some 50 F.A.O. experts have visited Saudi Arabia.

In 1965 an F.A.O. team of five, including an irrigation engineer and a specialist in the development and use of grazing lands, embarked upon a feasibility study for a major desalination project in the Eastern Province. Other agricultural endeavours to which U.N. experts have contributed valuable technical assistance include plant protection, farm mechanization, and animal health and production; a vitally important desert locust control centre has been established, also with F.A.O. aid, at Jeddah.

It is, however, chiefly in the various special projects, each substantially assisted under the U.N.D.P., that technical cooperation between the U.N. and Saudi Arabia can best be observed. Altogether there have been seven such projects, of which the first—a series of land and water surveys in the Wadi Jaizan—was started in 1960 and completed four years later. The latest—the establishment at Jeddah of a $5m. training centre for telecommunications and broadcasting—was only voted its $1m. U.N. backing at the beginning of this year. The other five, each backed by one or other of the U.N. specialized agencies, are now well established.

At Wadi Jaizan, a second major agricultural project has been backed by the F.A.O. in what is potentially one of the most fertile areas of the whole Arabian peninsula. On it largely depends the success of the nation's efforts to meet its food requirements from its own resources.

Spread over about 100 square miles in the far south, and extending some 25 miles inland from the Red Sea coast, the land has been extensively surveyed over the past seven years. Its capability is now extremely well documented: despite the perennial and often devastating risks of soil erosion, some 35 per cent of the area surveyed has now been classified as highly capable of bearing any kind of crop, and all but 20 per cent is deemed suitable for crops of some kind.

The current project consists of four closely related parts: a new irrigation system, applied research on forestry and on crop and animal production, marketing guidance on agricultural produce, and a training scheme for Saudi nationals. Work on this $2m. project, to which the U.N.D.P. is contributing over $650,000, started last year; completion is expected by 1969.

Riyadh Engineering College was first planned in 1962 and is now in full operation. The college has been jointly financed by Unesco ($1,042,600) and by the Saudi Ministry of Education ($3,265,553). Its object is the creation of a body of fully trained and qualified Saudi engineers—civil, mechanical, automotive and electrical—and it also aims to provide short courses for skilled labour and technical assistants.

The main study course is a five-year one; entry depends on the completion of secondary studies and proficiency in English. In accordance with government policy a fixed number of vacancies is set aside each year for students from other Arab states. Unesco provides teaching staff and arranges fellowship awards for Saudi nationals.

The work plan for Qatif Agricultural Station and its experimental farm on the Gulf coast was signed in 1963; F.A.O. is the U.N. executing agency. Drainage and irrigation naturally play a large part in its priorities, and particular attention is given to high-yield crops, vegetables and fruit—especially dates.

In its early stages the project involved extensive land reclamation; now the station is engaged in field experiments, the study of farm management and the problem of water distribution and utilization. It also undertakes the training of Saudi nationals—on the spot and overseas—to take over on the departure of the U.N. personnel.

Education throughout Saudi Arabia is entirely free, and in the last decade the nation's education budget has increased from $7m. to over $40m. Teacher training is clearly of prime importance in consolidating on this phenomenal progress, and at the beginning of 1966 Unesco voted over $1m. towards establishing a college for this purpose at Riyadh.

The Government are contributing a further $4,262,600 and after the first five years will be solely responsible for financing and administering the college. An annual intake of 120 students is planned, and the four-year course will lead to degrees in either arts and education or science and education.

The U.N.D.P. is contributing $624,800 and the Saudi Ministry of Trade and Industry a further $2m. towards the establishment at Riyadh of a centre to advise the Government on its programme for industrial development. The U.N. contribution will be spent on technical equipment, recruiting and providing for a permanent team of experts, and operating a series of fellowship awards for study overseas.

The prime function of the centre is advisory, but it also aims to carry out its own preliminary studies on industrial projects, to supervise their execution, and to help in the coordination of the nation's various industrialization programmes—bilateral, group and international. Implementation of the project, started in March, 1966, is scheduled to take three years.

Liquid gold from the desert sands.
Bryan Cooper

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, May 09, 1967; pg. IX; Issue 56936.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS654535849

A CHANGE OF MEN

The substitution in Aden of SIR HUMPHREY TREVELYAN for SIR RICHARD TURNBULL is described as a change of style and not of policy. This sort of explanation always has an ominous sound. It was the language used to minimize the significance of SIR NEVILLE HENDERSON'S appointment to Berlin and the shelving of SIR ROBERT VANSITTART. New men symbolize changes of policy even when they do not make them, and often they do both. MR. GEORGE BROWN will today be expected to explain exactly what the Government's policy in Aden is, and why, if it does not need changing, it needs a fresh man on the spot to carry it out.

This is not to say that SIR HUMPHREY TREVELYAN will not prove to be the right man in the right place. His experience is much more varied than SIR RICHARD TURNBULL'S, and the South Arabian situation has become a great deal more involved than most last chapters of colonial history, which are the situations SIR RICHARD knows best. But the Government will be extremely lucky if this changeover is not interpreted as a sign of weakness. SIR RICHARD has inherited and developed obligations to men who have been prepared, at considerable risk, to work with Britain in providing South Arabia with a government capable of taking over after independence. When he goes, will the obligations go with him? Put in the simple terms in which Arabia and other parts of the Middle East will see it, is Britain preparing to sell more of its friends down the river?

It is no doubt true that the business of the United Nations mission to Aden was mishandled, and some at least of the responsibility for this must lie with SIR RICHARD. There is, too, nothing much to be said for a policy of treating PRESIDENT NASSER and those loosely labelled "Nasserists" as pariahs. In the long run South Arabia ought obviously to be on good terms with Egypt, just as much as with its other neighbours, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. But it would be folly to think that either the United Nations or NASSER is going to help Britain out of trouble. South Arabia is still Britain's sole responsibility.

The brief which SIR HUMPHREY should be given is to assess for himself the government best fitted to guide South Arabia into and after independence. He should decide the time, the men, and the money he needs for this, and he should be given what he needs. He should not go out saddled with a rigid timetable.

The worst thing of all would be if SIR HUMPHREY'S appointment proved to be yet another element of inconsistency in Britain's Arabian policy. The timing of the change makes it look suspiciously as though it was. KING FAISAL is now in London, and presumably his visit is being used to review—and if possible strengthen—diplomatic and military ties between his country and Britain. (These are mostly of the present Government's own making.) Yet presumably also SIR HUMPHREY is expected to bring into the Aden dialogue the nationalist elements which look towards Cairo and regard KING FAISAL as their natural enemy. The kind explanation of what is happening could be that Britain was keeping all options open; the more accurate one might be that, not for the first time, the Arabian peninsula was the scene of a bad case of British schizophrenia.

Muddled policy creates doubt, and doubt is a big element in spreading chaos. This is what Britain must at all costs avoid—not just because leaving a territory in chaos is a disgrace, but because chaos tends to spread. In so far as South Arabia has drifted further towards chaos in the past year, and SIR RICHARD TURNBULL has been in charge over this period, a case can be made out for replacing him. If a new man aids confidence it is worth bringing him in. But the criterion by which he will be judged is the degree of order in which the new state is born.

A Change Of Men.
The Times (London, England),Thursday, May 11, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56938.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS184904875

ADEN ENVOY SWITCH CONFIRMED

MR BROWN DENIES RIFT

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC STAFF

Mr. Brown, the Foreign Secretary, confirmed in the House of Commons yesterday that Sir Humphrey Trevelyan is to replace Sir Richard Turnbull as High Commissioner in South Arabia in 10 days' time.

He said that there was no truth in any suggestions that there had been differences between Sir Richard and himself, either personally or over policy. The change was being made "because I think that Sir Humphrey's experience and background will bring new and valuable assets to bear on the problem at this stage".

Mr. Brown added: "As a result of all the consultations I have had, I have become convinced that the situation which will develop over the remaining months will require a somewhat different background and experience to that which Sir Richard has had." He said that a debate on Aden would be held after the Whitsun recess during which he would make a full statement on the Government's policy.

The Government continue to hope that the United Nations can play some useful role in South Arabia. The British Minister in New York, Lord Caradon, has been holding urgent consultations with the three-man United Nations mission and with the Ambassadors of Egypt, Syria and Iraq, as well as with U Thant, Secretary-General.

The hope apparently is that the good offices of the Arab powers and the mission can be called in to persuade the various self-exiled Adeni nationalists to meet British and Federal representatives, and one another, possibly in Geneva.

Lord Shackleton, Minister without Portfolio, who spent a fortnight in Aden last month, returned there with Sir Richard Turnbull n Wednesday in an attempt to persuade Federal Ministers to agree to meet representatives of Flosy and the N.L.F., the two nationalist groups, if a conference could be arranged.

Meanwhile, two Federal Ministers, Mr. Muhammad Farid, Minister for External Affairs, and Mr. Abdul Girgara, Minister for Information, are in London to see British Ministers and King Faisal of Saudi Arabia.

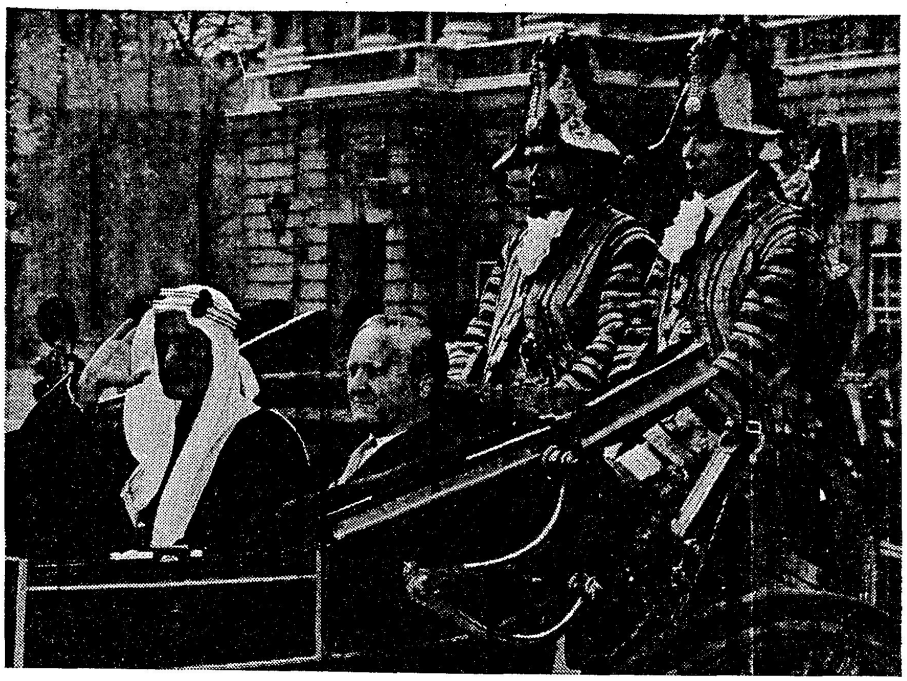
Parliamentary report, page 7, and sketch, page 4.

Mr Brown Denies Rift.
OUR DIPLOMATIC STAFF

The Times (London, England),Friday, May 12, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56939.

Category: Politics and Parliament

Gale Document Number:CS17132716



King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, accompanied by Lord Westmorland, leaving Buckingham Palace yesterday for St. James's Palace where he received the High Commissioners for the Commonwealth countries and Heads of Mission of the Diplomatic Corps.

KING FAISAL HOPES FOR UN HELP

Rights of reconstruction

King Faisal of Saudi Arabia said yesterday that it was neither for him nor President Nasser to agree on a plan of reconstruction for South Arabia. That was the right of the people, although he hoped the United Nations might help to bring peace and order to the federation.

The King was answering questions through an interpreter after a Foreign Press Association luncheon at which he was the guest of honour.

Britain's role

Asked whether Britain should leave the Arabian peninsula altogether, he said that one of Saudi Arabia's basic aims was that each Arab country should have its independence. He thought every such nation should be helped and supported to maintain its independence.

"Every country and every nation should have the right of self-determination, and have the right to choose for itself what it likes, without any interference either from those who are near by or those who are far away", King Faisal said.

"The origin of the tragic state of things in our area was, in fact, caused through non-compliance with that principle of self-determination, and through the interference from some in the affairs of others."

Asked if the royalists could defeat the republicans in the Yemen, the King said that in the first place Arab should not meet brother Arab in bloodshed. As for one side defeating the other, or the Yemenis defeating Egypt. "These matters are in the hands of almighty God".

Palace farewell

In the morning the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh said goodbye to King Faisal at Buckingham Palace, where he had been staying since his arrival in Britain on Tuesday.

The King drove in an open landau to St. James's Palace, where he received Commonwealth high commissioners and heads of diplomatic missions. For the rest of his visit, he will stay at the Dorchester Hotel.

Cairo check on British plane

CAIRO, May 11.—A British DC-7 airliner flying supplies to Aden was yesterday instructed to land at Cairo airport for a check to ensure that its cargo contained no military equipment. All British aircraft carrying military supplies are banned from flying over Egypt.—*Reuter.*

Primate of Greece is deposed

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

ATHENS, MAY 11

The Greek Government deposed today Archbishop Chrysostomos, the Orthodox Primate of Greece, and appointed eight of the nine members of the new Holy Synod. This follows the promulgation of two laws approved by the Cabinet. The first dismissed the 12-bishop Holy Synod elected by the assembly of Greek bishops last year, and appointed a new Holy Synod with extended powers.

The second extended the provision about the retirement of bishops at the age of 80, to the Archbishop Primate. Archbishop Chrysostomos, who was elected for a life tenure on February 14, 1962, is 87 years old. He had a mild stroke during the Good Friday procession in Athens last month.

The new Holy Synod, which is composed of eight bishops until the election of the new Primate, is to meet tomorrow under Bishop Constantinos, the Metropolitan of Patras, and senior Greek bishop, to ratify the retirement of the Primate.

The new Archbishop is to be elected by the Synod on Saturday.

The Minister of Education and Cults said tonight the three candidates for the post would be Bishop Constantinos, Bishop Dionysios of

King Faisal Hopes For Un Help.
The Times (London, England),Friday, May 12, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56939.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67857580

NASSER VISIT BY MONTGOMERY

Crowds scream greetings

From DEREK JEWELL, Cairo, May 12

The emphasis of the visit of Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein to Egypt changed today. The reminiscences of battles past became tinged with the political situation of the present as he travelled back from El Alamein to Cairo for his private talk this evening with President Nasser

The discussion gained even more significance because of events in the past few days connected with the Aden crisis—the replacement of Sir Richard Turnbull by Sir Humphrey Trevelyan as High Commissioner in Aden, together with the visit to Britain of King Faisal of Saudi Arabia. The Field Marshal has kept abreast of the news from Britain even during his week in the desert, and was well prepared to discuss these matters with the President.

Field Marshal Amer, the first Vice-President of the United Arab Republic, was also at the President's residence at Manshiyet el Bakri, a suburb of Cairo, to greet Monty, who travelled with General Mortagi, Commander in Chief of the land forces of the United Arab Republic, but was otherwise—at his own request—alone.

Sentimental journey

But present issues were not everything on this day. After leaving El Alamein by car just after dawn, Monty paused at the Cairo-Alexandria crossroads on the fringe of the Western Desert to savour again the place where, on August 13, 1942, he met Major-General Sir Francis de Guingand early in the morning.

This was Monty's first full day in Egypt 25 years ago after being flown out to take command of the Eighth Army. From De Guingand on that day, as they drove towards El Alamein, he heard a full report on the situation in Egypt and the problems facing the Eighth Army. De Guingand became his chief of staff and was crucial to the success of Monty's campaign against Rommel.

After this roadside halt today, Monty drove on—Union Jack fluttering on his car—to the railway station at Sidi Gaber in the resort area of Alexandria to entrain for Cairo in one of the luxury air-conditioned expresses which run through the Nile Delta between Alexandria and the capital. Among the crowd awaiting him was a small girl who presented him with flowers.

This was another sentimental journey for him. He had been due to return to Cairo by car, but he asked especially to come back through the delta by rail because this was a regular journey for him in 1932 when he commanded the garrison at Alexandria. "I want", he said, "to see again the fellahin at work in the fields".

Saluting children

He saw this morning the richness of the delta—the endless fields of cotton, rice and wheat; the dark-brown soil; the meandering channels of the Nile; and, at every railway halt, crowds of people pressing against the carriage windows to see him. He arose and saluted them, and the crowds, including many children, saluted back, adding their applause as well.

But all this was as nothing compared with the welcome he received at Cairo station. There around 2,000 people lined the platforms and the path to the presidential entrance—usually used by heads of state.

They applauded tumultuously and there were even women emitting the *zaghrouta*—a sort of high-pitched ululation used at weddings or to greet loved ones returning from a pilgrimage. This seemed rather appropriate for Monty — even though it sounds remarkably similar to the screams which greet pop singers in the west.

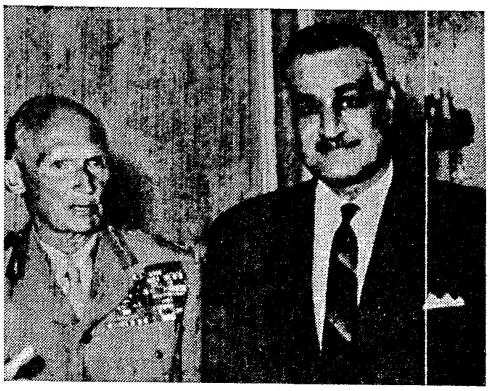
Monty, who returns to London tomorrow evening, appeared at this point of his journey, as at many others, to be *persona grata* with the ordinary Egyptians as well as with their President and Army.

Egypt accused of raids

DAMASCUS, May 12.—Egyptian planes made three raids on the Saudi Arabian town of Najran, near the Yemeni frontier, during the last 48 hours, the Saudi Arabian Defence Ministry said today in a statement broadcast by Mecca Radio. Two people were reported killed and four injured.—*Associated Press.*

Correction

The caption to our picture of Lord Montgomery in page 10 of *The Times* of May 11, showing him in the desert, inadvertently described one of his companions as Lieutenant-General Sir Oliver Leese. It was in fact Brigadier Hugh Mainwaring.



Lord Montgomery talking with President Nasser in Cairo last night.

Nasser Visit By Montgomery.
DEREK JEWELL

The Times (London, England),Saturday, May 13, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56940.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68512941

NO END OF A LESSON

From Mr. H. V. Molesworth Roberts

Sir,—In your issue of today Mr. R. Oppenheimer says that, in the matter of Suez, "the United Nations Organization should have taken effective action", and refers to "U.N.O. inertia"; and you appear to endorse his words by your sub-heading. One wonders where he got his information, or the distortion of it. Of course a world confederation must start by passing resolutions, and the Security Council did so on October 5, 1956; but the U.N. did much more—the Council drew up principles on the 13th, and the General Assembly called an Emergency Meeting on November 1, "demanded" a cease-fire on the 2nd, drafted the powers of an Emergency Force and appointed General Burns on the 6th (the Force was accepted by Egypt on the 12th), and voted large sums for it on the 29th. In March, 1957, it was a going concern, and has been, as we know (*vide* Annual Register, 1956, pp. 128-30). Could the U.N. have done more?

Yours, &c.,

H. V. MOLESWORTH ROBERTS.
109 Brighton Road, Sutton, Surrey,
May 11.

No cause for shame

From Dr. Robin Kemball

Sir,—One point in the sorry chapter of Suez seems unaccountably to get overlooked by Mr. Nutting and those of his persuasion: the fact that it was Nasser who first acted in defiance of solemn international obligations, so robbing Britain and France of their legitimate rights.

One may (or may not) regret the ineptitude of their reply—but what, in the name of justice, is there to be *ashamed* of?

I am, Sir, yours faithfully.

ROBIN KEMBALL.
Villa la Pensée, Blonay sur Vevey,
Switzerland, May 8.

A little fresh air

From Mr. Farid Khayatt

Sir,—Mr. David Silverman's letter (May 11) is like a breath of fresh air. Nasserphobia, which is endemic in Fleet Street and in most parts of Whitehall, contributes largely to Britain's ailing policies in the Middle East.

The more windows that Mr. Nutting manages to prise open to let in the wind of common sense the more therapeutic will the effect be on those policies.

Yours faithfully,

FARID KHAYATT.
1 Darley Drive, New Malden, Surrey,
May 11.

No End Of A Lesson.
H. V. MOLESWORTH ROBERTS. 109 Brighton Road, Sutton, Surrey, May 11, ROBIN KEMBALL and FARID KHAYATT. 1 Darley Drive, New Malden, Surrey, May 11.

The Times (London, England),Saturday, May 13, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56940.

Category: Letters to the Editor

Gale Document Number:CS185691309

Discord on all fronts in the Middle East

FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT—BEIRUT, MAY 14

The Middle East was tense on all fronts today. A sharp exchange of words across the Israel-Syria border brought fresh expressions of concern from U Thant the United Nations Secretary-General, and more alleged poison gas and bombing raids by Egyptian aircraft were reported by royalist Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi Defence Ministry said that an Egyptian raid on Jizan early today killed a woman and wounded 11 women and children. In Beirut an explosive charge damaged the Saudi cultural centre, smashing doors and window panes. Another charge went off near the Saudi Embassy.

On the eve of the nineteenth anniversary of the creation of Israel heightened tension was perhaps to be expected but Israel actions in the last few days have added fuel to the fire.

Jordan complained to the United Nations truce supervision organization about a planned march in the Israel section of Jerusalem, and Israel's apparent resolve to hit Syria hard if guerrilla raids continue brought a furious reaction from Damascus. An official statement said that Syria was ready to invoke the defence agreement with Egypt to wage a popular war of liberation in which the Arab masses would participate.

Envoys of countries represented on the Security Council were summoned by the Foreign Ministry to hear of "the conspiracy being hatched by imperialist and Zionist circles against Syria". In Cairo, meanwhile, Egypt turned down a United States request for the Sixth Fleet to pay a goodwill visit to Alexandria.

The central office for the Arab boycott of Israel has threatened to put all American goods on the list if the United States Congress passes a law prohibiting American firms from answering questions from boycott authorities.

Muhammad Mahgoub, commissioner general of the boycott office, said that Zionist congressmen were renewing pressure for such a law. If it were passed, Arab countries would boycott American goods and markets, replacing them in Europe and Asia. The boycott of three leading American firms, Ford, Coca Cola, and R.C.A. (Radio Corporation of America) is still hanging fire, however, because of the hardships it is causing in some Arab countries.

Lack of unity

In Beirut various Palestinian organizations, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, issued condemnatory statements to coincide with Israel's anniversary. The statements attacked the Zionist-imperialist alliance and lamented the lack of Arab unity, a state of affairs amply evident in the events of the weekend.

Muhammad Ben Ali Ibrahim, the Yemen royalist Information Minister, in a cable to foreign correspondents in Beirut, alleged that the Egyptians used poison gas against tribesmen about 40 miles north-east of Sana, killing 75.

Discord on all fronts in the Middle East.
FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Monday, May 15, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56941.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS84241583

IN COMMAND—WHATEVER THE SITUATION

MONTGOMERY ADVICE FOR CAIRO

By DEREK JEWELL

Whatever the Egyptians have made of the military and political dicta of Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein during the past week or so, they have been left in no doubt about one aspect of his character. He is still a commander, who lets no niceties of protocol or custom stand in the steamroller path of his plans, who can confound anyone by sheer force of personality.

Right until the last weekend hours of his visit to the United Arab Republic in the twenty-fifth anniversary year of the Alamein battle—he flew back to London late on Saturday—he was firing solidly down the line.

A major-general rose during Saturday's final big event—a lecture by Monty to about 150 generals and high state officials at the Nasser Higher Military Academy in Cairo—and said that he would organize the questions which the officers had to put to the Field-Marshal. "No, no, no", said Monty. "I am in command of this battle". The major-general sank without trace.

In his element

The messages which got through to the senior United Arab Republic officers were, as usual, a compound of wit, good sense, outrageousness and idiosyncratic judgments. Major-General Saladdin el Hadidi, the Director of the Academy, called the lecture "the most important occurrence in its history." It was certainly good value.

Monty as schoolmaster was in his element. He stood before a blackboard, drawing over it in red, white and blue chalks, as he expounded his military philosophy and the conduct of the Battle of Alamein. "You've got to have a good staff", he declared. "Make them do the work, while you think. In the end your Chief of Staff has so much work he goes mad. It doesn't matter—get another one. The great thing is not to go mad yourself.

He made many other well-received jokes. "If you want to know my views on British politicians, ask", he told the attentive ranks before him. "I have spent much of my life fighting the Germans and fighting the politicians. It is much easier to fight the Germans."

Faults of Americans

No one took him up on his invitation to judge the politicians, but he was questioned about the role of Britain east of Suez and himself raised the matter of the war in Vietnam. "There is no clearly defined American political strategy in Vietnam", he said. "I asked the American Vice-President to explain United States strategy in south-east Asia and he couldn't answer, as I knew he couldn't.

"The difference between the British and Americans is that we believe the objective of making war is a good peace. American generals believe all military actions is determined by military factors only."

On east-of-Suez policy, he reiterated his view that the west should withdraw from land bases in the Middle East and Far East and rely on sea and air power—especially small aircraft carriers—to maintain a military presence. "Last week in the House of Lords I re-floated the British Navy", he said, referring to the speech on defence which he made before he left for Egypt.

Criticism of 1956

He also criticized the conduct of British and French military operations against Egypt in 1956. "If I had been in charge, which I was not, I would not have landed at Port Said. To dominate Egypt you must dominate Cairo—and the way to Cairo is through the desert, not through the Canal and the Delta. I don't think the generalship was very good—but then the politicians took charge."

There were still questioners eager to tackle him when he looked at his watch, declared himself hoarse, and hustled off—Union Jack still fluttering on his car, crowds still ready to applaud him through the streets of Cairo—for the remainder of his day, which included Egyptian bagpipers serenading him at luncheon, and tea in the garden of the Anglican Cathedral by the Nile following his inspection of the Eighth Army memorial window there.

Montgomery Advice For Cairo.
DEREK JEWELL

The Times (London, England),Monday, May 15, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56941.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS84372655

Army moves in Cairo

CAIRO, May 15.—A steady stream of armoured cars and Army lorries drove northwards through Cairo today and observers speculated that the movement might be connected with the present tension on the Syria-Israel border.

Egypt in Damascus defence talks, page 6.

Britons hurt in Aden attack

ADEN, May 15.—Four off-duty British soldiers were slightly wounded tonight in a grenade explosion in the Crescent shopping area of Aden, police reported. *Reuter.*

News in Brief.
The Times (London, England),Tuesday, May 16, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56942.

Category: News in Brief

Gale Document Number:CS18443440

Egypt in Damascus defence talks

'Firm in duty to Palestine'

From NICHOLAS HERBERT, Beirut, May 15

Egypt and Syria today discussed joint defence against Israel, the nineteenth anniversary of whose creation was marked by protests and demonstrations throughout the Arab world. General Muhammod Fawzi, the Egyptian Chief of Staff, who arrived in Damascus late yesterday, continued his talks with Syrian military leaders on the mutual security pact.

Cairo's authoritative newspaper *Al Ahram* said this morning that all necessary steps had been taken to implement the agreement, which was signed in November but has not so far been invoked. Egypt had information that Israel was massing troops for use against Syria.

General Fawzi, the newspaper said, was fully up to date on Cairo's thinking after a series of conferences yesterday with Field Marshal Abdul Hakim Amier, the commander-in-chief of the Egyptian armed forces.

Involvement possible

Just what Egyptian thinking may be is not clear, but with increasing tension along the Syrian-Israel border, the possibility of active Egyptian involvement becomes greater. A Syrian military official said in a radio broadcast last night that Egypt and Syria faced with firmness their historic nationalist duty towards the Palestine question in particular and the Arab people in general.

He did not elaborate but it is clear that, if there is to be an effective combined effort, Egyptian aircraft will have to be stationed on Syrian soil in advance. President Nasser has said that the range of Egyptian fighters is not sufficient for them to fight over Syria and, given the terrain, a land attack is unlikely.

Up to now Syria has shied away from having Egyptian bases in the country for fear that they might become political centres, but six or seven MiG fighters were lost in the April 7 air battle, representing a sizeable portion of Syria's air defence. It is assumed that the Soviet Union will be ready to replace these in time, but it is not known whether they have done so yet.

A Soviet Army officer, General Victor Chanin, who has been described as chief training expert attached to the Syrian armed forces, left for Moscow yesterday with the Syrian Order of Merit, first degree, presented to him on completion of his mission.

U S Fleet's visit

In the editorials on Israel's national day there has been some breast-beating about the lack of Arab unity, but the Israel Chief of Staff's hint that action might be directed specifically against the Syrian Government has produced some interesting reaction.

One strongly right-wing Beirut newspaper said today: "We are in the forefront of those who wish to see the Marxist-atheistic regime in Damascus collapse, but if its fall is to be at Israel's hands, our wish would be to see it immortal."

George Hakim, Lebanon's Foreign Minister, was quoted today as saying that he hoped the United Nations would intervene. Earlier he had said that the Government here would take a decision on Wednesday on whether to permit a visit by the United States Sixth Fleet, which has become involved in the issue because of Israel statements that their security rested with the fleet. Cairo's rejection of an American request to visit Alexandria has further complicated the Lebanese Government's position.

Student rallies

Strict security measures were taken in south Lebanon, according to one newspaper, to avoid the use of Lebanese territory as a base for guerrilla attacks inside Israel. Today in the south student demonstrations were held to mark the anniversary of Israel's birth.

A strike was organized in the Gaza area, and in Damascus all work stopped and traffic came to a standstill for 15 minutes. Rallies were planned and Syrian schoolchildren were given lectures on the Palestine issue when they arrived at school this morning.

Egypt in Damascus defence talks.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, May 16, 1967; pg. 6; Issue 56942.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS100887728

EGYPT RAID ON SAUDI ROCKETS REPORTED

Installed by British contractors

FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT
—BEIRUT, MAY 16

Egypt has bombed a rocket base inside Saudi Arabia, it was reported here today. Major-General Abdel Salam Tewfiq, Chief of Staff of Egyptian forces in Yemen, was quoted in the newspaper *Al Anwar* as saying the attack was separate from those on the border towns of Najran and Gizan which have been notified by the Saudi Defence Ministry.

General Tewfiq did not identify the target but Khemis Mishayt, the airfield where British contractors have installed 35 Thunderbird ground-to-air missiles, is the only known rocket base in the area. Apart from the missiles, it is defended by a squadron of Hawker Hunter and Lightning jet fighters but the lack of ground control makes them ineffective.

The base was hurriedly constructed last year as part of an operation known as "Magic Carpet" which was designed to provide instant response against Egyptian raids across the border. This it has not done, either because of Saudi reluctance to have a showdown or because the British personnel there are supposed to be non-combatants or, perhaps, for reasons connected with ground control.

At any rate the much larger contracts which were to follow have not yet been signed, except one, for 40 Lightnings, whose assembly line at Warton, near Preston, King Faisal was due to visit today.

New departure

If the raid did take place, it would be a new departure by the Egyptians, who have hitherto confined their bombing in Saudi Arabia to the two border towns claimed as Yemen territory. These are usually referred to by the Egyptians as "bases of aggression" and it was as such that General Tewfiq spoke of them in the interview published today.

The *Al Anwar* correspondent, reporting from Sanaa, quoted the general as saying that Yemen royalist claims about Egyptian casualties in the civil war were pure hallucination. "It cannot be said that there is war in Yemen now", he added, "but this does not mean there are not some agitators who come from Saudi Arabia to distort the great image of stability in Yemen republic. These operations are insignificant from the military standpoint."

Egypt Raid On Saudi Rockets Reported.
FROM OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, May 17, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56943.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67988657

U THANT WARNING OVER MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

Egypt demands withdrawal of United Nations Force

Egypt yesterday asked the United Nations Emergency Force to move out of the way immediately so that it would not get hurt if war broke out with Israel. In New York, U Thant, the Secretary General of the United Nations, said in a statement that the situation was " potentially very grave."



U Thant : London visit cancelled.

He said that if Egypt demanded the withdrawal of the United Nations force it would have to leave. He announced that he had cancelled visits to London and Brussels in the next few days because of the situation.

Egypt and Syria have declared that their forces are on maximum alert to deal with any possible Israel aggression. Jordan yesterday also put her forces in a state of alert.

RUSSIA AN INFLUENCE FOR PEACE

From NICHOLAS HERBERT—Beirut, May 17

Cairo radio said today that Major-General Indarjit Rikhye, the Indian Commander of the United Nations Emergency Force, had been asked to withdraw his men from the border and concentrate them inside the Gaza strip because Egyptian forces were prepared for action if Israel should attack any Arab state.

The General's reaction was not known but it was assumed here that U Thant's cancellation of his proposed visits to Britain and Belgium was one result of this new situation.

The United Nations Force is by no means so strong now as it was in its heyday after the Suez war of 1956, budgetary restrictions having reduced its size to just over 3,000 men, and in the event of large miltary movements it would be hard pressed to keep the antagonists apart.

General Rikhye, who took over the force early last year, saw 600 men withdrawn soon afterwards and further cuts in the budget were made last December at Soviet instigation.

On war footing

Egypt, Syria, and Jordan are now all on a war footing, and other Arab countries, with the notable exception of Saudi Arabia, had pledged their full support for Syria by this evening.

Dr. Ibrahim Makhous, the Syrian Foreign Minister, flew to Cairo today, presumably to concert the diplomatic strategy of Egypt and Syria, whose military cooperation under their new mutual security pact was arranged at talks which ended in Damascus yesterday.

It was officially announced that Dr. Makhous carried with him a verbal message from Dr. Noureddin al-Atassi, the Syrian head of state, dealing with the Middle East in general and " Israel provocations " in particular.

If it is still difficult to believe that either side actually wants to fight now and that the considerable diplomatic pressures being brought to bear will not manage to avert a serious clash, it is perhaps rash to say so. The possibility of inadvertent warfare has been immeasurably increased and the all-important position of the Soviet Union is unstated.

Callers in Cairo

The Soviet emphasis would appear to be on peace, however. The local communist newspaper reproduced today an article by the Novosti news agency saying that the Soviet Union was prepared to extend the necessary assistance to Syria, which was defending its rights in peaceful construction of a prosperous society.

This is perhaps a good indication of Moscow's apprehensions, and a call yesterday by the Soviet Ambassador and Military Attaché on the Egyptian Minister of War, was no doubt of considerable significance.

In both Arab capitals, however, it was announced that the forces were on maximum alert. The senior commanders of Egypt's three services took over control of their units personally, with General Abdel Mohsen Mortagi ordered to assume general command of the front in the event of war.

In Damascus it was disclosed that units of the People's Army had taken their place alongside the Regular Army and were on maximum alert against possible aggression. The official party newspaper, *Al Baath*, said that Israel had massed 15 brigades near the Syrian border, in addition to the troops stationed there after last month's big air battle. Dr. Yusuf Zeayen, the Syrian Prime Minister, visited the front today and all civil defence units were put on the alert.

Jordan joins in

Saad Juma, the Jordan Prime Minister, announced in Amman that the Jordan armed forces had been placed on a state of alert as a precaution against emergencies. Jordan would be on the side of its sisterly Arab states against the common danger, he said.

According to *Al Ahram*, the Cairo newspaper in which most of the official Egyptian pronouncements are appearing, President Nasser has written to his " progressive " Arab colleagues in Iraq, Algeria, and republican Yemen, while letters are also on the way to Moscow, Delhi and Belgrade.

Support for Syria has been voiced by Iraq, Kuwait, Algeria and Lebanon and by Ahmed Shukairy, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Significantly, up to this morning neither the Saudi Arabian nor the Jordan radios had been diverted from their now customary propaganda attacks against Egypt and were ignoring the crisis.

However, later Amman radio expressed support for the Egyptian request to the United Nations.

Cairo is asked to explain, page 6.
Leading article, page 11.

Two Britons shot dead in Aden

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

ADEN, MAY 17

Two British Servicemen were killed and six injured in Aden today and British warships in South Arabian waters came under fire. The two Servicemen in civilian clothes were off duty when they were gunned down by unknown Arabs in the back streets of the Crescent area this afternoon. The area is out of bounds to British troops.

Six British soldiers were wounded when a grenade was thrown at the back of their three-ton vehicle in Sheikh Othman suburb this afternoon. An Arab who was seen in a prohibited area of Aden was shot dead today by British soldiers when he disobeyed orders to halt. An Arab's child was killed in an exchange of fire between terrorists and troops manning a checkpoint in Sheikh Othman.

In another robbery today reckoned to be the 20th in a month armed men stole £55,000 from a sub-branch of National and Grindlays Bank in Little Aden about 25 miles west of here.

Robens pledge on coal prices

Lord Robens stepped off an airliner from Malta at Heathrow yesterday and gave a prompt pledge on coal prices. There is no reason why they should rise, he said.

Higher electricity prices would cost the coal industry millions of pounds but this could be met by increased productivity. Coal mine productivity had risen by 40 per cent in six years.

Within hours the Ministry of Power disclosed that Britain's fuel policy will be thrashed out today at a meeting at an hotel outside London (the Ministry refused to disclose its name or location). The meeting will be the first of its kind to be held outside the Ministry. Mr. Marsh, Minister of Power, will be in the chair.

The Ministry said that he had been working for some time on producing a fuel policy to take account of new factors, such as North Sea gas and nuclear power.

Pledge on Malta jobs, page 6.

Hospital check for Faisal

King Faisal of Saudi Arabia entered the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital at Millbank, London, yesterday for a routine medical check, an official statement said.

The statement, issued by the Saudi Arabian Embassy, added that the King's general health remains excellent.

" It is expected that his Majesty will leave hospital by the end of the week to continue with his private visit to this country ", the statement said.

U Thant Warning Over Middle East Crisis.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Thursday, May 18, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56944.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001650

The spokesman said that the force went into Gaza and the Sinai peninsula more than 10 years ago with the consent of the Government of the United Arab Republic. and has continued on that basis.

"As a peace-keeping force", he added, "it could not remain if that consent were withdrawn or if the conditions under which it operates were so qualified that the force was unable to function effectively. The Secretary-General regards the situation as being potentially very grave."

Reports from generals

U Thant today conferred privately with Lord Caradon (Britain). Later he called in the representatives of the seven countries which have contingents in the Emergency Force—Brazil, Canada, Denmark, India, Norway, Sweden and Yugoslavia.

He has been in constant contact with General Rikhye, the Commander of the force, and has also been receiving reports from Lieutenant-General Odd Bull (Norway), the Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Jerusalem.

About the only public comment by any diplomatic source at United Nations headquarters on the Middle East crisis came from Mahmoud Mestiri, the newly-appointed permanent representative of Tunisia. He told reporters that the United Arab Republic appeared to be making a "play" for Arab public opinion by threatening to resort to military measures against Israel, "but we know they won't do it."

TOULON, May 17.—Eighty Paris firemen will next week begin five months' special duty in the Toulon area of southern France to help check forest fires which every year destroy thousands of acres of forest and scrub.—*Reuter.*

Air of bluff in Egypt's demand

BY OUR DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

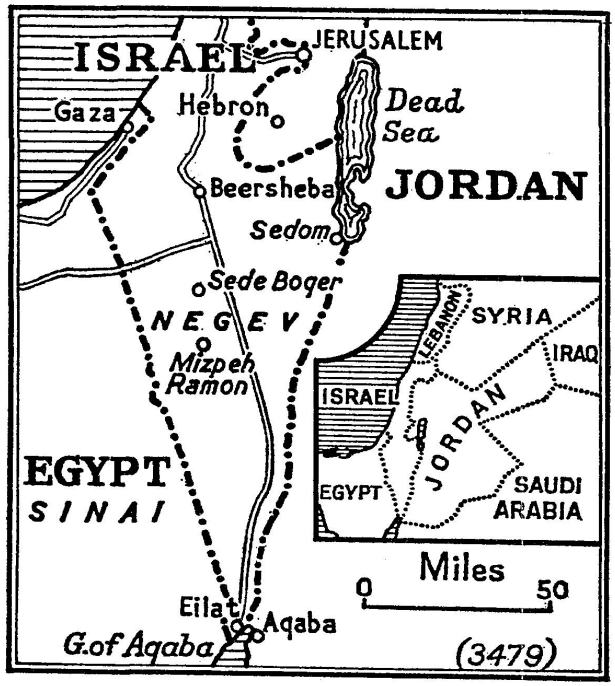
The United Nations Emergency Force, which occupies the Gaza strip, and separates Egypt from Israel, now numbers about 3,400 men.

During the Suez crisis of 1956 Israel overran the Gaza strip, and Egyptian control was not reasserted until March, 1957. Since then the United Nations Force has carried out patrols along the length of the international border between Israel and Egypt in the Sinai desert which beforehand had been the scene of frequent frontier incidents.

The force was installed with the agreement of Egypt, so it seems that Egypt, being the sovereign power, would have the authority to evict the United Nations if she so desired.

The indications yesterday were that Egypt's demand to the force to "stand aside" and withdraw to its main base in the Gaza strip was more bluff than one made in earnest, and was unlikely to denote any serious intent to begin hostilities with Israel. The tension recently has been caused on the Syrian-Israel frontier, and not the Egyptian-Israel one. Moreover, Egypt is too heavily committed militarily in Yemen for it to be wise or convenient for her to engage in operations to the north.

The Egyptian warning could be regarded as an automatic rejoinder to a recent statement by the Israel Prime Minister that Israel would have to retaliate more severely if the Syrian-inspired frontier raids continued.



Air of bluff in Egypt's demand.
BY OUR DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Thursday, May 18, 1967; pg. 6; Issue 56944.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS102460594

TIMES PAST

THE TIMES

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PEACE AND PROVOCATION

The Egyptian demand for a withdrawal of the United Nations emergency force stationed in the Israeli-Egyptian border area is a dramatic attempt to expose international failure to settle the problems of Israel and its neighbours. The demand is not for the expulsion of the force but merely that it should stand aside and not carry out the very purpose for which it has been stationed in the area for ten years past. From this it might be inferred that Egypt wants the decks cleared so that Israeli pretensions can be firmly and finally dealt with by force. The reality is quite different. The demand is evidently the latest move in a war of nerves that has been expanding for some months past.

From the Arab side the provocation has been raids across the Israeli frontier carried out by guerrillas sponsored and trained in Syria, though they have been crossing into Israel from Lebanon and Jordan as well as from Syria. The first Israeli protest at the United Nations last autumn drew a resolution from the Security Council sufficiently condemnatory of Syria to bring down a Russian veto. Thereupon the Israeli answer was the raid into Jordan—calculated and punitive, but not imposed on the true culprits. Once again the U.N. met, this time to condemn Israel. Meanwhile a rapprochement between Egypt and Syria had led to a military agreement, promising to the Syrians more scope for their raids, and to Egypt more control and leadership of anti-Israeli feeling in the Arab world.

Egyptian ambitions have always been one of the complications, not merely in using the Israeli issue to inflate its role as leader of the Arabs, but especially in the aim of displacing KING HUSAIN and substituting a more pliable government along the Jordan-Israeli frontier. But worse than these never-ending inter-Arab quarrels is the Russian commitment to what it thinks is a suitably revolutionary government in Damascus. This commitment was strong enough for the casting of a veto last autumn. It is still strong enough to impede any kind of agreement to maintain the status quo in the area, though some states, notably Lebanon, would be happier if some such international agreement could be arrived at. Worse, the Russian commitment is strong enough to convince Israel that any attempt to get effective U.N. decisions enforced will always be frustrated.

Hence the resort to major punitive assaults—most recently on the Israeli side by the aircraft and tank battles of April. Last week MR. ESHKOL warned that similar attacks might again be mounted if raids did not stop. Added to this warning has been the provocative demonstration in Jerusalem celebrating the nineteenth anniversary of Israel's foundation. On both sides the decline proceeds, turning aside from the arbitration and peace-making power of the United Nations in favour of settling matters by force.

The world has lived so long with Israeli-Arab enmity, none of which has showed the slightest sign of dying away, that it is hard to light on any new approach. Of course the commitment and responsibility of the U.N. must be upheld: over the latest demand Egyptian bluff must be called. But the U.N. can only work against odds so long as there is no common interest in the peace of the area upheld jointly in Washington and Moscow. The Russians may not care for all the Arab forces that look to them for support, but they have been backing Syria enough to arouse the utmost Israeli suspicion. Similarly the Israeli declaration that their security depends on the American sixth fleet has been enough to enlist other Arab countries on Syria's side in treating the United States as a backer of their enemy. It is a dismal prospect for the United Nations trying to keep the peace on the ground while hearing from time to time the arguments of the angry plaintiffs. Much the best damper on the growing belligerence would be the admission by the Americans and the Russians that they have more to gain by keeping the peace in the area than by responding to any claims made on them.

Peace And Provocation.
The Times (London, England),Thursday, May 18, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56944.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS184773810

U THANT 'TO ORDER UN TROOPS TO LEAVE'

Reported decision to comply with Egypt's request

U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, told Egypt last night that the United Nations would comply with its request to withdraw peace-keeping troops from the Middle East. An official order to the force is expected to go out within the next day or two.

Anxiety was expressed about the reported decision. Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, said last night that it would make a mockery of the peace-keeping work of the United Nations if as soon as tension arose the force was told to leave.

During the day two Israel aircraft fired warning cannon shots near a United Nations aircraft carrying Major-General Indarjit Rikhye, the commander of the Emergency Force, and tried to make it land in Israel territory. U Thant issued a strong protest to the Israel Government, which last night made an apology.



Mr. Arthur Goldberg, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. speaking yesterday: U.S. would support any U.N. action required to keep the peace.

Mockery of UN, says Brown

The United Arab Republic's request for withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force made a mockery of the United Nations peacekeeping work, Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, said last night.

Speaking at the United Nations Association annual dinner in London he said the Middle East situation "is critical for us who believe in and support the United Nations in its peace keeping activities".

The presence of the Emergency Force in the Sinai desert had kept tension down. "We don't have to look further for a United Nations success. Yet the Government of the United Arab Republic has made a formal request for the withdrawal of Unef from its territory as soon as possible.

Support for U Thant

"It really makes a mockery of the peace-keeping work of the United Nations if, as soon as the tension rises, the United Nations force is told to leave. Indeed, the collapse of Unef might well have repercussions on other United Nations peace-keeping forces, and the credibility of the United Nations' efforts in this field are thrown into question."

Mr. Brown said that U Thant, the United Nations Secretary-General, "knows that he has the full support of this Government in anything that he does to ensure that Unef remains active and in the field". Any decision to withdraw the force should be taken in the United Nations after full consultation with all the countries concerned.

"Unef was established with the full concurrence of the United Nations. It is the corollary that any decision to withdraw the force should be taken in the United Nations after full consultation with all the countries concerned, it should not be taken as a result of some unilateral decision. I call upon all members of the United Nations to ensure that this is done."

Mr. Brown said that an area where he thought the United Nations could play a useful role was South Arabia.

DILEMMA AFTER TRUCE LINE VIOLATION

From ERIC BRITTER, United Nations Correspondent,
New York, May 18

U Thant was tonight keeping his own counsel on what reply he should give to the United Arab Republic's request for the withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force from its territory, but according to informed sources here he has in effect decided to comply with the request.

No official statement was made today, but indications are that within the next day or so U Thant will convey his decision to President Nasser, and then communicate it to all the 122 member states of the United Nations. It was the General Assembly which in 1956 authorized the creation of Unef, and it is therefore the whole membership rather than the Security Council which should be notified. This decision, if confirmed, raises grave issues.

If U Thant accedes to the request, it will mean that the 140 miles of border between Israel and the United Arab Republic will be left without any neutral interposing element. The military forces of the two countries would be free to cross the demarcation line and engage each other on the battlefield.

If, on the other hand, U Thant tries to maintain the peace-keeping role which Unef has performed so valiantly for the past 11 years, he will be up against political and practical difficulties.

Seven representatives

Politically speaking, he cannot insist on Unef remaining against the wishes of the "host country". This principle was laid down by his predecessor, Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld.

Practically speaking, Unef would almost certainly disintegrate if any attempt were made to keep it operational on the spot. Of the seven countries with contingents in the force, several are known to be opposed to staying without Egyptian consent.

At yesterday's meeting of the seven representatives with U Thant, those of India and Yugoslavia (each of which has a battalion in the 3,400-man force) made it plain that they would pull out if the U.A.R. asked for withdrawal.

This evening the Secretary-General again conferred with the seven representatives.

Clearly, it is of the utmost importance to the United Nations and to all future peace-keeping operations to decide whether a force such as U.N.E.F. can be arbitrarily ordered out of a country, or whether its exit should be negotitated between the "host country" and the Secretary-General (as seems to be provided for in the original agreement), or, again, whether the General Assembly which sanctioned the formation of U.N.E.F. should be consulted before it is withdrawn.

Talks with Egyptian

Earlier today U Thant had two meetings with Muhammad el-Kony, the U.A.R. representative. At the first meeting, el-Kony delivered the formal Egyptian request that U.N.E.F. be withdrawn "as soon as possible".

U Thant today handed a Note to Mr. Gideon Rafael, Israel's representative at the United Nations, protesting strongly against the "buzzing" by two Israeli fighters of a white-painted



Caribou aircraft of the United Nations Emergency Force which was carrying Major-General Rikhye, the force commander, from El Arish to Gaza.

The incident occurred this morning. The fighters intercepted the Caribou west of the armistice demarcation line and tried to force it to land on the Israeli side of the line. They "went so far as to fire warning shots", according to a United Nations spokesman here.

The Canadian pilot of the Unef plane, on the instructions of General Rikhye, ignored these threatening manoeuvres and kept to his course, eventually landing safely on the Gaza airstrip.

OTTAWA, May 18.—The Canadian Foreign Minister, Mr. Paul Martin, said tonight that Unef "is no longer in being".—*Reuter.*

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Beneath a flag bearing the United Nations emblem, a soldier of the organization's peace-keeping force keeps a look-out in the Gaza strip.

Soviet chief of security goes

FROM KYRIL TIDMARSH

MOSCOW, Friday morning

The Soviet Union has appointed a new chief of its Security Agency In an announcement early this morning Tass stated that Yuri Andropov, a secretary of the Central Committee, had replaced Vladimir Semichastny, who has headed the K.G.B. since 1961.

The news agency gave no indication of Mr. Semichastny's new appointment. It simply said that he "has been relieved of his duties as chairman of the state security committee attached to the Council of Ministers in view of a new appointment".

Mr. Andropov, aged 52, was a young Communist League official in Yaroslavl and Petrozavodsk since 1936 and turned to party work in 1944. Between 1953 and 1957 he was counsellor and later Ambassador to Hungary.

Since 1957 he has headed the central committee department concerned with relations with foreign communist parties. He is a tall man of scholarly appearance and speaks good English.

Money magazine merger

Two leading financial magazines are to be merged on July 7 into a new journal incorporating the titles of both, and called *The Investors' Chronicle and Stock Exchange Gazette*.

The Financial News Group, owners of the *Investors' Chronicle*, and the International Publishing Corporation, owners of the *Stock Exchange Gazette*, each has a 50 per cent interest in a company formed to run the new journal.

BRITON REFUSES TO BOW TO MAO

Red Guards ransack house

PEKING, MAY 18.—Mr. Donald Hopson, the British Chargé d'Affaires in Peking, today made a formal protest at the Foreign Ministry against "violation of diplomatic immunity" in Peking, Shanghai, and Canton, but a Ministry official told him that China rejected the protest.

Mr. Hopson said he protested against demonstrations at the Peking mission, the ransacking of the British diplomatist's house in Shanghai, and harassment of a British diplomatist in Canton.

A British spokesman revealed today that Red Guards who burst into the Shanghai home of Mr. Peter Hewitt, a British diplomatist, two days ago smeared a portrait of the Queen and tried to make him bow to a picture of Mao Tse-tung.

Mr. Hewitt refused, and they left after handing him a petition, but a crowd of several hundred burst into the compound later in the day, forced its way into the house and systematically smashed everything, pulling electric fittings from their sockets and breaking up the refrigerator.

Mr. Hewitt was taken outside and frog-marched up and down for several hours, but his wife and three young children were not touched.

Counsellor jostled

The British spokesman said that Mr. Theophilus Peters, Counsellor in the British office, who walked out of a Chinese Government banquet in Canton on Tuesday, was later jostled and insulted for three-quarters of an hour by Red Guards in the restaurant of his hotel.

Chinese anti-British feeling reached new heights in Peking today as 100,000 people staged a mass rally to protest against British imperialism in Hongkong.

Chou En-lai, the Prime Minister, attended the rally, in a sports stadium which echoed repeatedly to roars of "Down with British Imperialism" from the crowd.

Hsieh Fu-chih, Minister of

BEA flights stopped by strike

Eight B.E.A. flights from Heathrow were cancelled last evening and about 80 delayed when about 30 service engineering workers, responsible for checking aircraft, stopped work.

More than 5,000 passengers were affected.

The men were protesting against suspension for three days without pay of a colleague alleged to have walked off an aircraft some days ago before handing over to another engineer.

B.E.A. said later that the men had agreed to go back. The man concerned would be suspended with pay until his appeal was heard.

Soviet gas offer to France

BY THE NEWS TEAM

Russia has offered to supply France with 2,500 million cubic metres of Ukrainian natural gas a year by a projected new pipeline that would cross the Iron Curtain near Vienna, sweep through

U Thant 'To Order Un Troops To Leave'.
From ERIC BRITTER, United Nations Correspondent

The Times (London, England),Friday, May 19, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56945.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001651

CAIRO SAYS ITS OWN TROOPS ARE ON BORDER

FIVE ARAB NATIONS NOW MOBILIZED

From NICHOLAS HERBERT—Beirut, May 18

Egypt today demanded the complete withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force (Unef) from its territory. U Thant was officially asked to arrange for its evacuation as soon as possible and Egypt announced that its own forces had already replaced the international force along the 117-mile border with Israel.

Egypt's request, which applied also to the Gaza strip, where Unef has its base, could introduce a dangerous new element into the Middle East crisis. It was made in a letter from Mahmoud Riad, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, who declared that Egypt was withdrawing permission, given just over 10 years ago, for the establishment of an international force on the border.

Danger in straits

It followed that the force, which consists of about 3,400 men, must go, he said in the letter read over Cairo radio.

Altogether five Arab nations had announced mobilization by this afternoon, Iraq and Kuwait being the latest to do so, and at least three others had voiced full support for Syria in her quarrel with Israel.

This amounts to the largest Arab mobilization since 1956, but perhaps the most dangerous implication of Egypt's action is that it will remove from the Sharm el Shaikh the 50 or so Scandinavian members of Unef who have been keeping open the straits between the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea and enabling Israel to use the port of Eilath.

The effect of this would be to restore an Egyptian finger if not to Israel's jugular at least to a very sensitive nerve. Pressure would not necessarily have to be applied at once, but if it were Israel's reaction might set off the war which still seems oddly inconceivable in spite of the obvious danger.

The reopening of these straits, at the apex of the Sinai peninsula, was Israel's most valuable trophy from the Suez war, which led to the creation of Unef. It has been recalled here, however, that Israel refused at the time to permit the establishment of Unef units in Israel, thus giving Egypt a unilateral veto on the existence of the buffer between them.

U Thant has already conceded the Egyptian right to demand withdrawal, and although diplomatic pressure will doubtless be attempted to preserve a United Nations presence, especially from Washington, it should be recalled that the Soviet Union has always regarded Unef as illegal.

It is also a fact that Washington's influence is less in Cairo than it has perhaps ever been, although one commentator here today suggested that this very fact might ultimately result in some fences being mended.

That, however, would be farther ahead than one can see at present, and meanwhile Lebanon today informed the United States that it should postpone a proposed visit by the Sixth Fleet to Beirut until a more suitable time.

Mr. George Hakim, the Lebanese Foreign Minister, told Mr. Dwight Porter, the American Ambassador, that there was no objection in principle to the visit, which the Americans wanted to make on May 26, but the date and other details should be fixed later.

Right-wing opinion here has been minimizing the gravity of the events of the past few days with newspapers describing them as "a storm in a teacup", "play acting", or "thunder and lightning without rain". In Cairo, *Al Ahram* observed today that Israel appeared to be backing down vis-à-vis Syria, which strengthened the independent opinion that the Egyptian action was primarily aimed at deterrence rather than attack.

Whether this would mean that Egypt could be dissuaded in turn from expelling Unef was not clear, but there has been some emphasis on the force's usefulness to the United Arab Republic in the past. It is felt in some quarters that, having satisfied Arab expectations of response to Israel threats and having embarrassed King Husain and King Faisal, President Nasser might be content with demonstrating that he can remove Unef whenever he wants while allowing it to remain.

Five Arab Nations Now Mobilized.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Friday, May 19, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56945.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17263795

£1,000m ARRAY OF WEAPONS READY FOR USE

Sabre rattling in Israel-Arab dispute

BY THE NEWS TEAM

The Israelis and the Arabs are now ready to deploy not less than £1,000m. worth of weapons, willingly supplied by Britain, America, Russia, and France if the present confrontation—the most serious in the Middle East since 1956—escalates into war.

The weapons in the hands of the two sides together make a catalogue of almost all the conventional and not a few of the less conventional weapons manufactured since 1945 by the four great powers of the Second World War, with some useful additions from Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, Formosa and elsewhere.

Information gathered from defence experts yesterday suggested that the odds favour Israel in any military conflict with her Arab neighbours. Of course, if there was a prolonged total war of attrition, in the event it can be postulated that the Israelis would eventually be overcome by sheer weight of numbers.

Only one force has stood between Israel and Egypt, still smarting from her defeat by General Moshe Dayan's army in the Sinai campaign in 1956—the United Nations peacekeeping units stationed along the Egyptian side of the border with Israel, with their base in the Gaza Strip.

Emergency reserve ready

Egypt has already asked this force of only 3,393 men to leave her territory. The United Nations has already acknowledged that she has a right to have this request granted. Even if the United Nations force, under Major-General Indar Rikhye, of India, and made up of units from Brazil, Canada, Denmark, India, Norway, Sweden and Yugoslavia, did not leave, or could not get out of the way in time, it could do nothing to stop the two armies getting to grips.

The open secret of Israel's daunting military strength and prowess lies not in her impressive array of ironmongery but in discipline, morale and organization.

Israel's population is only 2,525,600 (of whom nearly 300,000 are Arabs) living in 7,992 square miles of territory. Her regular Army consists of a cadre of only 30,000 men. But behind this lies a well-oiled military machine which can call up an emergency reserve in a matter of hours. If war broke out immediately Israel would be able to field 260,000 well-trained troops, fully armed and equipped.

Family tradition in Army

The High Command has also managed to weld the strong Jewish family tradition into the armed forces. The Israel Army can field seven infantry and two armoured divisions. It has 160 medium tanks (British Centurions, American Shermans and French AMX 13s), 1,300 artillery pieces and 220 self-propelled guns, according to the latest estimates, and 4,000 vehicles. In addition, the Israelis captured from the fleeing Egyptians in 1956 1,500 vehicles, 250 guns, 30 Russian T34 tanks and 7,000 tons of ammunition. They also have the French Nord SS11 and SS22 anti-tank missiles and one battalion equipped with the American Hawk ground-to-air missile.

Supplying the Israel Air Force (14,050 men) has been virtually a French monopoly for many years. Israel has 72 Mirage 5J fighter aircraft capable of twice the speed of sound, 62 Super-Mystères and Mystères (all supersonic) and 58 French sub-sonic fighter aircraft, many of which are equipped with the Matra R530 French air-to-air missile. She also has 30 American Skyhawk bomber aircraft.

Israel thus relies mainly on France for her strike weapons. But Britain, according to an independent authority on defence, has sold to Israel an unspecified quantity of a gas known as "C.S." and described as a "tactical combat" gas. It is a non-poisonous tear-type gas which is said also to cause temporary but severe nausea and physical weakness.

Egypt's army has about 120,000 men, but she could not field anything like this number, because up to 35,000 are thought to be committed to the battle against the Yemen royalists. Any idea of depleting these for an attack on Israel is probably out of the question because of the conflict with Saudi Arabia and the overall situation in South Arabia.

The Russians are mainly responsible for supplying Egypt with weapons, including 50 new Stalin tanks and 400 T 54s, as well as 11,500 vehicles of all types, anti-aircraft missiles, and 1,500 Russian cannon.

Russian Guideline missiles

Her Air Force (22,000 men) is also Russian to the last nut and bolt with 72 MiG 21s (twice the speed of sound) and 150 MiG 19s and 17s in fighter squadrons, 64 bomber aircraft and 42 helicopters, and stocks of air-to air and anti-ship missiles.

Syria is another of Russia's Middle East outlets for surplus weapons. The Syrian Army has 48,000 men in seven infantry and two armoured brigades, it is estimated, and a Beduin control force consisting of two or three battalions equipped with camels. Equipment includes 35 Stalin and 220 T34 tanks and 80 self-propelled guns, 430 artillery pieces, and three complexes of Russian Guideline missiles.

Her Air Force (3,000 men) is small, with 40 MiG 21s, 50 MiG 17s and 15s, and eight helicopters.

Jordan's Army of almost 30,000 men is still steeped in British military traditions and training methods. Though its equipment is largely obsolete, the troops are thought to be among the best available in the Arab world. They are divided into four infantry brigade groups, one mechanized brigade and three artillery regiments.

20 years of tension

The armour is elderly—55 American Patton tanks, and 50 moribund lightweight British tanks.

The Jordan Air Force is also small, with 36 mach 2 Starfighters (16 reportedly supplied by Formosa, the rest direct from the United States) and 20 British Hunters. Jordan plans to buy 20 American Skyhawk bomber aircraft soon.

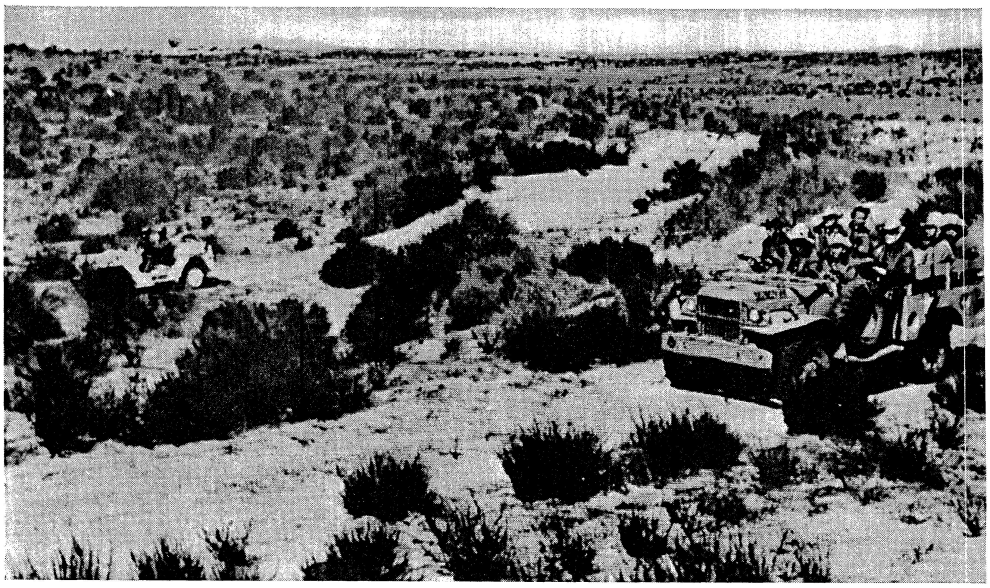
The last of Israel's four immediate Arab neighbours is Lebanon, which boasts a tiny 9,700-man Army equipped by America and an Anglo-French-equipped Air Force of 1,000 men.

If the Arabs really intend to attack, the onslaught will be mounted from one or more of these four countries. If recent rumblings in parts of the Arab world are to be taken literally, Kuwait, which has very small forces, and Iraq, with its Army of 70,000 men, may join in.

The Iraquis are largely Russian equipped, with 55 supersonic MiGs and 100 T34 tanks. Their 2,400-man Air Force is reported to have bought 42 Hunter fighter aircraft second hand from the Netherlands and another 24 from Britain.

So there is no sign that the confrontation will go beyond the present noisy sabre rattling by both sides.

But the vast movements of the paraphernalia of aggression now rumbling round Israel's borders once again call into question the ethics of wholesale distribution of arms in an area which has for the past 20 years been one of the most consistently tense regions in the world.



Simultaneous patrolling of the Gaza Strip border along parallel frontier tracks. On the right an Israel Army car and on the Egyptian side a United Nations Emergency Force jeep

London uncertainty on reason for Egypt's request

By A. M. RENDEL, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr. Brown's speech to the United Nations Association last night gave him a most opportune chance to assert publicly British support for the principle of United Nations peace-keeping, and in particular for a stand in the United Nations to oppose the United Arab Republic's request for the withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force from its territory. At the same time, late last night there were reports from New York that U Thant, the Secretary-General, was preparing to withdraw the force.

If the reports are correct the British Government will nevertheless certainly stick to their position and urge that the United Nations force should stay where it is.

Mr. Brown's speech, it should be noted, was in no sense an attack on the U.A.R. or President Nasser, but in every sense a defence of the usefulness of United Nations forces. It betokens no change in the British Government's wish to restore normal relations with the U.A.R. or in the policy of British withdrawal from Southern Arabia.

Right not denied

It does not deny that the U.A.R., having given its consent to have a United Nations force on its territory, has equally the right to ask the force to leave. It does, however, make clear publicly what many Foreign Ministers will have been instructing their representatives in the United



Mr. George Brown: critical to support U.N. peacekeeping.

Nations to say in private—that this decision should not be taken unilaterally, or at just the moment when the presence of a United Nations force could be most salutary, and that if it is to be taken at all, then it should only be after full consultation in the United Nations itself with the other interested powers.

What was not at all clear last night was the reason why President Nasser had made his request. No one believes that he wishes to open the way for a conflict now with Israel. With some 40,000 or more Egyptian troops in Yemen his forces are already far too militarily stretched for that. Possibly he felt that he must give support to Syria publicly, and the request which, even if complied with, would take time to carry out, was in fact a means of gaining time, while the immediate crisis passed, and that the United Nations Emergency Force would in the event not be withdrawn.

Syria's armaments

The President may have wished to increase his influence in Syria at a moment when the Russians, in spite of having supplied Syria with almost all her armaments, have nevertheless been keeping notably quiet and publishing only sparse reports about the Middle East crisis. Russia's relations with Syria are at the best complicated as, in spite of her arms supply, she is believed to distrust Syrian communists as being largely pro-Chinese. Syria sells much of her cotton crop to China.

It was also not clear in London last night whether the request for withdrawal included both the United Nations force on the Gaza strip and also the small United Nations contingent guarding the entrance to the Gulf of Akaba. If this latter force was removed the U.A.R. could again easily block Israel sea traffic up the Gulf of Akaba to the Israeli port of Eilat, where much of her oil supplies are shipped. The withdrawal of the United Nations force from the Sinai peninsula would therefore give particular grounds for increased tension.

Israel's neighbours warned at submarine take-over

FROM OUR NAVAL CORRESPONDENT—Portsmouth, May 18

Although there was little reference at today's commissioning ceremony here of a new submarine for Israel to the struggle with the United Arab Republic, the Commander-in-chief of the Israeli Navy, Commodore S. Erell, said he hoped the submarine might serve to convince Israel's neighbours it was better to maintain peace.

Addressing the crew in Hebrew he said: "It is perhaps symbolic that we commission a new modernized submarine during this period of tension. I can only express the hope that this submarine together with her sister ships may contribute to the deterrent and convince our neighbours that it would be better to maintain a peace."

He brought the greetings of the President of Israel and the whole of the Israel defence force to Lieut-Commander Z. Almug and the submarine he will command. They needed a navy and alert submarines, Commodore Erell said, in the present difficult situation.

The submarine—now named Leviathan—which did more than 21 years' service under the White Ensign as H.M.S. Turpin, has emerged as virtually a new boat.

Rigorous overhaul

For two and a half years she has undergone the most rigorous overhaul. A section of the pressure hull was cut away and the engines and motors removed bodily and transported to Chatham, where the Turpin



Commodore S. Erell at the commissioning ceremony.

was originally built. In the workshops of the Chatham Dockyard machinery was stringently tested and replaced as necessary before being returned and reinstalled.

Extensive rewiring was carried out by Portsmouth Dockyard and new features were introduced at the suggestion of the Israel Government. These include air-conditioning, increased refrigeration space, improved Sonar, and a complete realigning of the operations control room.

If internally the submarine, as it has been reassembled, appears to have changed little, this cannot be said of the surface silhouette. The sail—or conning tower—has been considerably extended at the fore end giving an enlarged bridge space and making a very different outline from the most advanced conversions of the same class with the Royal Navy—the Tabard and Trump.

Machine guns

Machine-gun mountings have also been introduced. Britain has repeatedly toyed with having machine guns mounted on submarines. The Israelis, for the particular work in which their submarines may be employed, feel that in their surface role such armament may be extremely valuable.

The wireless and sonar in the Leviathan have been updated and sonar traducers can be seen on the bridge above the attack search periscope. Improved escape systems have also been incorporated.

The displacement of the boat at 1,280 tons remains the same and the armament, six 21-inch torpedoes, has not been changed.

A second T-class submarine, Totem now being similarly modernized for Israel will commission in six months' time under the name of Dacar. This together with the two S-class boats previously bought from Britain will make up the Israel Navy's submarine squadron.

The Leviathan will sail tomorrow for exercises with the British Second Submarine Squadron at Faslane.

This will include deep diving, torpedo firing and underwater noise tests. After about eight weeks of exercises, she will leave for Israel.

£1,000m Array Of Weapons Ready For Use.
BY THE NEWS TEAM

The Times (London, England),Friday, May 19, 1967; pg. 7; Issue 56945.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS117664947

Israel thus relies mainly on France for her strike weapons. But Britain, and which has for the past 20 years been one of the most consistently tense regions in the world.

FEAR FOR FREEDOM OF SHIPPING

EXTRA PRECAUTIONS BY ISRAEL ARMY

From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME—Tel Aviv, May 18

The Egyptian build-up in Sinai was described in Tel Aviv today as the largest force to be assembled for 10 years. The Israel Government has reacted by taking extra military precautions, although officials would not say whether this meant the call-up of some reserves.

This would be the most likely course, as official circles maintain that although the Egyptian moves appear to be connected more with the inter-Arab politics than with any specific threat against Israel, they cannot afford to take chances.

Israel believes strongly that the presence of the United Nations force in Sinai and the Gaza strip is a matter for the General Assembly to decide and not Egypt alone. Officials are reluctant to accept that if the force helps to maintain general security in the area it could just as easily be situated on the Israel side of the border in the event of Egypt carrying through her demand for its departure.

What concerns Israel more than the Gaza strip is the Egyptian demand for the departure of the United Nations force from the Sharm el Shaikh, overlooking the Straits of Tiran, through which Israel shipping passes out of the Gulf of Aqaba. The threat of Egyptian interference with this shipping was the main cause for the Israel invasion in 1956.

The Egyptians have not repaired any of their coastal batteries which were destroyed during that campaign, but it is possible that they would do so if the United Nations contingent left. Israel maintains that she agreed to withdrawing after the Suez campaign only on the understanding that the United Nations forces would be able to see that these threats did not recur.

That is why Tel Aviv now disagrees with U Thant's interpretation of the United Nations-Egyptian agreement for the stationing of forces, in which he credits Egypt with the ultimate authority to decide whether or not the force should remain.

Although Israel mainly regards the manoeuvres as symptoms of Syrian and Egyptian bargaining, sources maintain that, whatever the motives behind them, they amount to escalation. Nevertheless the recent Israel warning that future acts of terrorism from Syria would be answered with more severe retaliation still stands. The Foreign Minister saw the British, French and American Ambassadors today but Israel's next tactics at the United Nations have not yet become clear.



A column of Russian T34 tanks of the United Arab Republic halt for refuelling in the Sinai Desert yesterday on their way to take up positions along the Egyptian-Israel border

Extra Precautions By Israel Army.
From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME

The Times (London, England),Friday, May 19, 1967; pg. 7; Issue 56945.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS117796019

TIMES PAST
THE TIMES

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HAMSTRUNG PEACEMAKERS

When a week ago U THANT spoke of the world being in the early stages of a third world war the tension between Israel and her neighbours was hardly sharper than usual, and the first rioters were only just moving onto the streets of Kowloon. U THANT was probably thinking mainly about Vietnam. He had come back from a visit to several Asian countries, in all of which Vietnam had been the main theme of his talks, and in none of which had he found any fresh grounds for hope.

Today Vietnam seems to be only one crisis among many. It is touch and go whether the Middle East's embers do not burst into flame; Hongkong has flared up again; so has Aden. For Britain, Rhodesia and Gibraltar remain unresolved crises, either of which could easily take an unpleasant turn. The Commonwealth must find cause for worry in west Africa; the United States can never forget Cuba. It is a long time since the world map had so ominous an appearance.

Separately none of these crises may be worse than many since the end of the war out of which a way was found. This fact, combined with the knowledge that nobody really wants even a small war and that the super powers are almost certainly prepared to use strong pressure to stop one, encourages a degree of optimism. We may be facing a sticky summer, but it hardly looks like a 1914 or 1939 one.

Unfortunately that is flimsy comfort. In every situation of violence there is a danger point where events take control, silencing argument. There can be no certainty that this point will not be reached in one or more of the present centres of trouble. It may be true that the present status of Hongkong is much more profitable for Peking than it is for Britain, and that therefore Peking can have no possible interest in upsetting it. Equally Egypt may have found the United Nations presence in Sinai useful in the past, and neither she nor any of Israel's other Arab neighbours may really want a head-on collision. But both communist China and the Arabs are prisoners of their own beliefs and propaganda. They have talked so long and in such warlike terms of crushing their enemies that it is easier for them to raise a storm than to halt it.

The really alarming thing about the present situation is the weakening of the peace-keeping forces. If America and Russia were working in concert, and if the United Nations had the moral and physical authority it should have, they would all be better placed to intervene decisively. But they are hamstrung, and for this the war in Vietnam is to a very large extent to blame.

It is hard to exaggerate the damaging consequences this war has had in almost every sphere. For at least two years it has been the constant preoccupation of U THANT; more than once he has thrown his personal influence and the prestige of his office into efforts to reverse the tide of war, but always without success. Had he been able now to point to any positive achievement in Vietnam his part in the Middle East crisis, in Aden, in Rhodesia, or in any of the other places where the United Nations has been called upon, would be infinitely easier. Instead of PRESIDENT NASSER calling for United Nations forces to move out of their old positions there would be many voices calling for them to move into new ones.

United States action is still more heavily handicapped by Vietnam. The war calls all the time for more American men and more American resources. It makes it increasingly hard for Russia and other countries to be openly associated with even the most laudable American initiatives in other areas. People argue that if American calculations went wrong over Vietnam, why should they go right elsewhere? Europe too is weakened by its own divisions. Both America and Europe should reckon again the heavy price they pay for their preoccupations.

Hamstrung Peacemakers.
The Times (London, England),Friday, May 19, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56945.

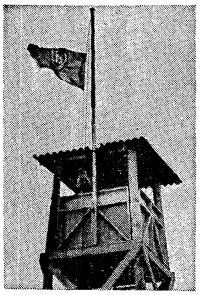
Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS184773811

UN FLAG COMES DOWN IN MIDDLE EAST

Emergency Force posts taken over by anti-Israel troops

The United Nations flag came down in the Middle East yesterday. U Thant, the Secretary-General, announced that he had decided to withdraw the United Nations Emergency Force from the Egyptian-Israel frontier and Gaza. The withdrawal began after a military ceremony, and the force, created 11 years ago, was declared to have ceased to exist.



The United Nations flag being hauled down in the Gaza Strip.

By last night the force had completely withdrawn from posts facing the Israel border, and units of the anti-Israel Palestine Liberation Army took over the posts. The United Nations men went to a camp east of Gaza.

In Cairo orders were given to religious leaders of the United Arab Republic to preach a holy war as the country continued to reinforce its troops along the border.

Canada, one of the countries contributing men to the United Nations force, said it would try to get a meeting of the Security Council.

HOSTILE TROOPS NOW FACE TO FACE

From NICHOLAS HERBERT, Beirut, May 19

Egypt and Israel faced each other directly tonight as the United Nations Emergency Force, which had stood between them for more than 10 years, began its official withdrawal.

Both sides described their troop movements along the 117-mile frontier as defensive, but the departure of the United Nations' most successful essay in peace-keeping opened up new areas of instability in the Middle East.

The most spectacular of these is the Tiran Strait, which gives access to the Israel port of Eilath in the Gulf of Aqaba and which seems likely to revert to Egyptian control.

Israel regards free passage to Eilath as of vital interest and might react sharply to any Egyptian attempt to bar its ships.

The absence of United Nations patrols along the entire frontier between the two countries, which are still officially at war, makes border clashes infinitely more probable and, with big forces on each side of the line, the chances of the war intensifying are increased.

Travellers arriving in Cairo from Gaza today described the atmosphere there as highly charged and there was little consolation for the peacemakers in the announcement that all Egyptian preachers had been ordered to preach *Jihad* or Holy War today.

The ministry of Religious Affairs said congregations must be reminded of the honour of dying a martyr in holy battle. Selected reservists were reported to have been called up, although there was no general move to mobilize the Reserve.

Unef ceased effectively to exist when the white and blue United Nations flag was lowered at a brief ceremony in Gaza earlier today, after Egypt's demand that it leave. Some countries were said to be hopeful that the force could be resuscitated or replaced with something more durable, but Egypt has said it will regard any attempt to question its action as an unfriendly act.

The 3,400 men from seven countries who made up Unef were reported to be withdrawing to barracks before repatriation, either by way of Cairo or from the port of Gaza.

A warning that Egypt would strike a devastating blow against any aggressive move by Israel was given by Field Marshal Abdul Hakim Amer, the U.A.R. first Vice-President. It had been established beyond doubt, he said in an interview with *Al Ahram*, that Israel troop concentrations were posing a threat to Syria and it was high time to put an end to Israel's bragging and arrogance.

Nasser silent

Egypt, in other words, is ready to keep up the pressure against Israel, Saudi Arabia and Britain simultaneously, not to mention Jordan, whose army the Syrian Foreign Minister says is massing on the border with Syria not Israel. It is noteworthy, however, that President Nasser himself has said practically nothing during the crisis and that, for all Syria's talk about a popular war of liberation, Egyptian statements have promised action only in response to an attack by Israel on another Arab country.



A United Nations Emergency Force officer says goodbye to an officer on the Israel side of the Gaza Strip border.



An Israel military policeman at the Erez checkpoint on the Gaza Strip watches for developments along the border after the withdrawal of United Nations troops.

Brown visit to Moscow postponed

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, having postponed his visit to Moscow half an hour before he was due to leave yesterday morning, spent much of the day with senior advisers studying messages from the United Nations and Middle East capitals.

Mr. Brown was in touch with Sir Geoffrey Harrison, the British Ambassador in Moscow, on Thursday afternoon and during the night, but took no final decision to postpone the visit until after a meeting at 8 a.m. yesterday morning, when the position over the United Nations Emergency Force on the Egypt-Israel frontier was still obscure.

It was not expected yesterday that Mr. Brown would reach a decision about the rest of his visit to Moscow until tomorrow or Monday, but he could still have two of the three meetings, and a dinner arranged with Mr. Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, if he left London on Tuesday.

There was distinct disappointment in Whitehall yesterday at what was felt to be the unduly unquestioning acceptance by U Thant of Egypt's request that the United Nations Emergency Force should be withdrawn.

Genuine fear

The reasons for Egypt's request have become clearer. Arabs and Israelis both seemed to think that Cairo took its decision in order to be seen to be supporting Syria, and also because it genuinely feared that an Israeli reprisal raid into Syria might be imminent, and had decided after the criticism of its passivity after the shooting down of six Syrian MiG fighters in April that it could not afford to watch its ally suffering attack without acting.

The withdrawal of Unef would also, in the longer term, be to the strategic disadvantage of Israel.

Soviet secret official dies 'on duty'

FROM KYRIL TIDMARSH

MOSCOW, MAY 19

Russia's security police have a new chief as reported in later editions of *The Times* today, and this change in leadership of the K.G.B. has been followed by the announcement that Major-General V. Luksbin, a senior officer in the agency, "died tragically in the course of his duties".



Mr. Yuri Andropov, new chief of the Soviet Union's Security Agency, the K.G.B.

The two events are not connected but both announcements have in common the same brevity

An obituary on the back page of the Ministry of Defence newspaper signed by a "group of friends" simply recorded the death of Major-General Lukshin. A career party official since 1941 Major-General Lukshin had been a member of the state security committee for the past 13 years.

Mr. Yuri Andropov, the new head of the agency—who was severely ill last year—is senior in the party hierarchy to Mr. Vladimir Semichastny, whom he succeeds. Mr. Andropov is a full secretary of the party Central Committee; Mr. Semichastny is only a candidate member.

Tough group

Mr. Semichastny is a member

ANGRY PROTEST TO CHINA ENVOY

Mr Brown's strong line

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Mr. Brown, the Foreign Secretary, last night delivered what was clearly a most outspoken oral protest in the strongest terms to Mr. Shen Ping, the acting Chinese Chargé d'Affaires in London, over the treatment to which British representatives have this week been subjected in Shanghai and Peking.

Mr. Shen Ping had already received one unusually strong protest on Tuesday, but had apparently refused to transmit it. Mr. Brown said he could not accept that, or the fact that a protest delivered in Peking had been thrown out of the door.

Mr. Shen Ping was told yesterday that the house of Mr. Peter Hewitt, the senior British representative in Shanghai, had been sacked, his wife and young children terrorized, and Mr. Hewitt frog-marched up and down the consulate compound.

Mr. Brown emphasized that the same treatment was expected for British representatives in China as the Chinese received here, and the British Government reserved the right to claim full compensation.

Referring to Chinese accusations of fascist treatment by the British authorities in Hongkong, Mr. Brown said he wanted to hear no more of that. He had himself as long a record of anti-fascism as the Chargé d'Affaires.

Mr. Shen Ping was asked to convey these very strong views to Peking.

Chinese march again, page 3
Leading article, page 11

D Notice report being studied

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The Prime Minister has now received the report from the Radcliffe committee, who have been inquiring into the D notice system.

The report could be out next week, but it is more likely to appear after Parliament reassembles on May 31.

Seamen reject Chichester

Cuba in £16m deal with Britain

HAVANA, May 19.—Cuba today signed a controversial £16m. contract for the construction of a big British fertilizer plant here.

The contract with the firm of Simon Carves Ltd. caused a diplomatic flurry between Washington and London in the negotiating stages early this year, when the United States opposed British Government backing of credit for the deal.

The British Government have agreed to guarantee 80 per cent of the value of the plant for five years after completion, expected in 1970.—*Reuter.*

Ten chained to Minister's home

Ten people chained themselves to the railings outside the home of Mr. Greenwood, Minister of Housing and Local Government, in Downshire Hill, Hampstead, N.W., last night. About 25 people from the St. Pancras Tenants' Association took part

After Mr. Greenwood had spoken to them the 10 unlocked their padlocks and left.

Three people are to appear in court on Monday accused of obstructing the footway.

Un Flag Comes Down In Middle East.
The Times (London, England),Saturday, May 20, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56946.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001652

Egyptian return to Gulf of Aqaba post seen as more menacing than Syrian border raids

Israelis fear a renewed blockade of their shipping

From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME, Defence Correspondent
Tel Aviv, May 19

The military crisis in the Middle East does not present any immediate threat to Israel's security but the situation became more charged yesterday when Egyptian troops occupied Sharm el Sheikh, which commands the southern outlet to the Gulf of Aqaba.

The Egyptian arrival here and the mustering to the north in Sinai has had the effect of severely curtailing possible future Israel initiatives in response to further military pressure.

Cairo can again bottle up Israel shipping at Eilat, in the north of the Gulf of Aqaba, and thus strangle Israel sea trade to the east. It was mainly this blockade which caused Israel to begin the Sinai campaign in 1956.

Since then Israel has always maintained that an Egyptian reoccupation would run the risk of being regarded as a *casus belli* on the ground that Israel could not afford to wait and see whether or not Egypt would in fact resume the blockade.

Israel may thus be provoked into making a sudden gesture, such as an air strike on Sharm el Sheikh. If Israel does react, how will the Egyptians themselves react?

Defensive force

The Egyptian Army in Sinai is seen in Tel Aviv mainly as a defensive force, not organized for invasion but more to stop a possible Israel invasion similar to the Sinai campaign. A big land campaign is thus ruled out.

Militarily speaking Israel could defend herself against a land invasion from any individual Arab state and most probably from any combination of some or all of her immediate Arab neighbours. Israel's forces are numerically inferior but are normally given the benefit of better training, better use of equipment, interior lines of communication and a highly centralized command—all or most of which would be lacking on the Arab side.

The Egyptians, therefore, would be more likely to react to an Israel demonstration of force by using their air forces. The Gaza strip is only a few minutes' flying time from Tel Aviv in one of Egypt's jet fighter-bombers. This fact is not lost on Israel and may account for the extreme jumpiness over possible intrusions into airspace which yesterday resulted in shots being fired near a United Nations aircraft.

In spite, also, of the constant alertness of Israel's Mirage interceptor fighter squadrons, there could be no question of any guarantee that the densely populated area round Tel Aviv could be protected from a premeditated bombing attack.

Take over scuffles

The Egyptians are moving into the Gaza strip without bothering to stand on ceremony with the United Nations forces who have been asked to leave. According to Israel observations, the takeover was marked by scuffles between troops belonging to the United Nations contingents and the Egyptians which were visible from the Israel side of the border.

Israel's reaction to the reoccupation of Sharm el Sheikh is crucial to the next round of the crisis, but the general Egyptian build-up has also had a profound effect on Israel actions at the other end of the country, on the border with Syria.

It is an article of faith in Israel that border raids must be met with retaliation in kind. Any country which is thought to inspire or condone guerrilla activities over the common border with Israel has reprisals carried out on it by Israel. Although this policy may be of doubtful morality and has no international legal validity, Israel claims that it is justified because it has shown conclusively that it works.

The frontier with Egypt has been quiet since the Sinai campaign and it is claimed that other punitive expeditions to Jordan have also brought comparative peace to that frontier. Only the border with Syria remains an active battleground, with incidents increasing until last month Israel destroyed several Syrian MiG fighters on the ground.

What will happen *now* that everybody in the area has heightened military preparations, and conflicts could spread to a scale which is unlikely to stop at irregular acts of terrorism?

Each Syrian incursion has been met sooner or later with a fierce Israel reprisal in the hope that Syria, like Jordan and Egypt, will eventually accept that the game of guerrillas is not worth the candle. President Nasser has for years been trying to persuade them that there is no point in attacking Israel until one can finish the job, and that is not something for which the Arab world is yet prepared.

In fact, Israel's general defensive position is now probably as good as it has ever been. If the big powers continue to serve their interests in preserving an overall balance of power in the area by doling out weapons systems to each side, it is hard to see what will cause any deterioration in Israel's position.

At the lower level of frontier warfare, however, the immediate future is precarious because of the unpredictable nature of the Syrian Government and because the last official word from Mr. Eshkol, the Israel Prime Minister, was to the effect that action similar to the destruction of Syria's fighters might have to be taken if there were further raids.

Having now engineered Egypt into making a great demonstration of support for them, the Syrians could call President Nasser's bluff by actually provoking the Israel Government with another raid. Any Israel response to that would either have to be followed by an Egyptian response or else the Egyptian support for Syria would be exposed as hollow.

Face-saving move

This situation would also put Israel in a quandry, and it is already clear that Israel would not make any immediate and automatic reprisal against another Syrian raid but would maintain that such a response would be made in Israel's time and in conditions of her own choosing. This could prove to be a useful formula for saving face and waiting until the pressures of the moment have slightly abated.

There is also some hope here that the visit to Moscow of Mr. George Brown might lead to the Russians exerting some more sobering influence on the Syrian Government. There is more chance, therefore, that the situation over the Syrian border can be eased than there is over the question of the occupation of Sharm el Sheikh.



Swedish soldiers of the United Nations Emergency Force destroying aerial markers of "U.N. 25" observation post shortly before their withdrawal.

SATURDAY BARGAIN SCRAMBLE

Hunting ritual of the book addict

By PETER HOPKIRK

On the stroke of 10 o'clock this morning—and every Saturday morning—a curious and little-known ritual takes place in a quiet London street.

There, shortly before the hour, a dozen or so men and women can be seen waiting, elbow to elbow, around a tarpaulin - covered barrow. The first to arrive have already seized positions in the middle, to allow themselves maximum reach to left and right.

Anyone risking a clandestine peep beneath the tarpaulin invites a sharp reprimand from the barrow's owner.

As the hands of the clock near by move to 10 o'clock, the tarpaulin is whipped off, revealing rows of dusty old books. At once a dozen pairs of hands plunge in, and books begin to fly in all directions.

These Saturday gladiators—all collectors or dealers—come here regularly to hunt for bargains in this 1s. or 2s. lucky dip. For although the Farringdon Road book market operates six days a week, Saturday is the day when the barrows are topped up with fresh stock.

When the first barrow has been plundered, the contestants move over to the next to await its unveiling, and so on.

More in the hunt

Although nobody seriously expects to find a first edition of Newton, there are mini-bargains undoubtedly—books for a shilling or two which are immediately worth a pound or more to collector or dealer.

Book-hunting, the addict will tell you, offers all the satisfactions of big game hunting or diamond prospecting, without the dangers. And today, dealers report, more people than ever are collecting books of every description.

"Once, book collecting was the preserve of the wealthy and educated", one dealer told me. "Today ordinary men and women are collecting books on every subject under the sun: old cookery books, mountaineering books, books on their favourite country or city, Victorian children's books, early Baedekers, Wisdens, and modern first editions.

"Compared with paintings and antiques, where 5s. will buy you nothing, secondhand books are surprisingly cheap—and, if bought by someone with a little knowledge, a very sound investment."

Just how good an investment was startlingly demonstrated in July, 1965, when, in a two-day sale at Sotheby's, a collection of 600-odd books on the physical sciences fetched £69,581. They had been collected over a lifetime by Professor E. N. Andrade, who paid mere shillings for many of them—"mainly in cathedral towns", he says—at a time when few people were interested in out-of-date scientific works.

If Professor Andrade was starting to collect all over again, what field would he choose? "I think I would go for the neglected poets like Tom Hood", he told me. In fact he is collecting again, though he is not anxious to disclose what.

Another expert in rare books said he would advise beginners of limited means to try to find a field so far uncollected, however seemingly obscure—"if there is one left". If he knew of one, however, he would be collecting it himself, he added.

What are the windfalls that every book collector, whatever his normal field, keeps an eye open for? A number of leading London dealers and auction room experts I consulted suggested the following, but emphasized that to command top price they must be "fine" copies—i.e., in virtually perfect condition.

A first edition of Eliot's *Prufrock*, I was told, can fetch anything up to £75 at auction, and Dylan Thomas's *18 Poems* around £55. A first edition of D. H. Lawrence's *The Rainbow* recently sold for £36 at auction.

Churchill's *The River War*, in a first edition, might be expected to fetch between £75 and £100, and his first book, *The Malakand Field Force*, £200 or more. A really fine first of Yeats's rare *Mosada* could, I was told, fetch between £750 and £1,000 at auction.

Since, apart from anything else, a dealer stands the risk of finding himself stuck with a book he buys at auction, he will expect a lot more for it when he sells it—around 80 per cent more was one estimate given me.

The following first edition prices are dealers' catalogue prices for copies in "fine" condition: Forster's *Where Angels Fear to Tread* (£40-£50); Kipling's two *Jungle Books* (£30-£40 the pair), Conan Doyle's *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (£75-£80), *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* (£45-£50), Stevenson's *Treasure Island* (£100 if really "fine"). Housman's *A Shropshire Lad* (£50-£60).

How much will a dealer pay for a valuable book brought to him? One told me: "If it is merely going into stock, where I may already have three copies, I would normally pay between £25 and £30 for a book I eventually hope to sell for £50. But I may give £35 or even £40 for it if I know I have an immediate sale for it."

Another first edition windfall for anyone lucky enough to stumble on it is *Alice in Wonderland*. Even a dilapidated copy of this suppressed edition which turned up unexpectedly in Africa recently sold for £750. In good condition a copy could sell for £1,000 or more.

Most works by best-selling modern novelists do not command very high prices—yet. "First editions of their works are usually only a little above their price new", a dealer told me. "Undoubtedly though they will increase—as Graham Greene already shows signs of doing—and are a good investment." Waugh's *Vile Bodies* has already reached between £12 and £15.

Some dealers are said to buy new "firsts" of leading novelists and lay them down to "mature" like wine.

A book's condition is everything. Ex-Boots Library books, for example, are worth nothing to a collector, even if first editions; while a name or bookplate in the front will normally reduce a book's value.

IRVING WARDLE

Theatrical autocrats are still needed



Among all the issues stirred up by the National Theatre row over Hochhuth's *The Soldiers*, one topic—to my mind more important than any other—has been overlooked. The clash between the theatre's board of governors and its director is not a local matter: it represents, at national level, a confrontation which is taking place privately in theatres throughout the country and which is likely to be intensified with the spread of civic repertory.

The National Theatre affair has been useful in focusing attention on the source of the trouble; but the outcome of the dispute has deplorable implications. From now on any repertory theatre board, which previously might Opera House convinced that the strong provincial amateur tradition, coupled with philistinism, amounted to an implacable enemy to professional theatre.

Choice controlled

"The provinces are not going to get people like me—and the silly thing is that there's nothing I would like better." At the Northampton Repertory Theatre, Alan Vaughan Williams was answerable to a board which controlled the choice of plays and recruitment of actors; and which finally dismissed him with a letter saying: "You proved unable to carry out the wishes of the board."

Bernard Hepton, Mr. Sense's fession. The first is the democratic fallacy: the idea that the control of a theatre by one man is equivalent to political dictatorship. The second is the idea that artists are unqualified in the craft to which they have devoted their lives—responsible communication.

Given the history of the British repertory movement, it is amazing that the democratic fallacy still survives. Companies which have left their mark have all been run by autocrats: Miss Horniman, Terence Gray, Barry Jackson. Of course they were spending their own money. The day of the independent theatrical millionaire has passed; but not the need for the theatrical autocrat. That is the problem. Public money

Egyptian return to Gulf of Aqaba post seen as more menacing than Syrian border raids.
From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME, Defence Correspondent

The Times (London, England),Saturday, May 20, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56946.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS167996596

ME war risk insurance rates to leap

By KEITH PAYNE

Sharp increases in war risk rates for marine insurance on Middle East sea routes are expected to be agreed in London next week following the threatening situation building up between Israel and Egypt. A special meeting of the War Risks Underwriting Committee, bringing together Lloyd's underwriters and the marine underwriters of the British companies, may be held on Monday. The normal war risk for most parts of the world is nominally 9d. per cent of the value of the goods insured, but this is now likely to go up to 5s. per cent for affected areas in the Middle East.

At the same time marine underwriters are taking a close look at the situation in Hongkong. Though no special meeting has so far been held to agree new rates, again a 5s. war risk rate is likely to be demanded of any shipper now sending goods to the area. For over a year insurers in the London market had been quoting 1s. 3d., instead of 9d., as the nominal war risk rate on marine account, plus a further 1s. per cent. for interior destinations. By international agreement there is no insurance for war risk on land.

Members of Lloyd's account for about half of all marine insurance. In the case of war risk the Aviation Underwriters Association leave the determination of rates for air insurance to Lloyd's, who, because of their tremendous experience, are considered better able to assess risk on an aircraft than an aviation underwriter.

Underwriters insuring on Middle East routes might decide to charge 2s. 6d. per cent war risk up to the port of discharge, and then a further 2s. 6d. to represent the interior risk. United Kingdom to Jordan routes typically might cost 5s. per cent simply for the war risk, as would Egypt to Jordan. The normal marine risk on top, which usually averages 5s. to 7s. 6d., might also be expected to go up sharply if underwriters take a serious view of the situation next week. It would depend heavily on the length and type of journey, class of ship, and nature of the goods. A range of 7s. 6d. to 15s. per cent is possible.

The Export Credits Guarantee Department, which insures British exporters against loss through default, is not putting any immediate stop on new business to the area, but might do so if shots are fired and a war situation develops along the Israeli-Egyptian frontier.

ME war risk insurance rates to leap.
By KEITH PAYNE

The Times (London, England),Saturday, May 20, 1967; pg. 15; Issue 56946.

Category: Business and Finance

Gale Document Number:CS252013748

EGYPTIAN ARMY CALLS UP ITS RESERVES

U Thant flying tonight to see President Nasser

Egypt yesterday called up reservists—only a few hours after Israel had done so. There were reports of large-scale Egyptian troop movements along the Suez Canal. In the Gaza Strip members of the Palestine Liberation Army said they were ready to strike into Israel.



Ahmed Shukairy, who said yesterday: "A clash could come at any time."

With the hope of getting some relaxation in the Middle East crisis, which he has described as more menacing than at any time since 1956, U Thant, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, is due to leave New York for Cairo tonight.

Britain and the United States are considering what action can be taken to prevent the outbreak of hostilities. Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, had consultations in London over the weekend. President Johnson has decided that the 1950 Middle East declaration requires the United States to intervene. Washington is also engaged in discussions with Moscow.

Feeling that U S must intervene

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, MAY 21

President Johnson has decided that the 1950 Middle East tripartite declaration with Britain and France is a national commitment requiring American action to prevent another conflict between Israel and the Arab States.

The agreement reads in part: "The three Governments, should they find that any of these states was preparing to violate frontiers or armistice lines, would, consistent with their obligations as members of the United Nations, immediately take action, both within and outside the United Nations, to prevent such a violation."

One view expressed here today was that in the event of an Arab attack the United States and Britain would have to go to the help of Israel.

The United States is also in close touch with the Soviet Union. Russian assurances of firm interest in preserving peace have already been received, and discussions are said to be continuing at the embassy level. This would appear to explain reports of an urgent and secret American appeal to Mr. Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, for joint diplomatic action.

Important reason

What appears to be happening now, is that Mr. Johnson is trying hard to extend the agreement to the Soviet Union, the chief military provider for the Arabs. He is said to have a very important second reason for engaging the Russians.

The prospect of the United States and Britain becoming involved militarily in the Middle East could be very attractive in Moscow. Everything is being done to ensure that it does not dominate Soviet policy.

Nevertheless, the anger and indeed contempt for U Thant amounts almost to an American withdrawal of confidence in the Secretary-General, because the Egyptian request came as no surprise. It was anticipated and considered by his predecessor, the late Mr. Dag Hammarskjoeld.

His position, which was subsequently assumed to be the official United Nations position, was that no decision should be reached on such a request before consultations within the General Assembly.

DANGER OF CLASH IN TIRAN STRAITS

From NICHOLAS HERBERT—Beirut, May 21

Egypt's mobilization of reserves today was ordered by Field-Marshal Abdul Hakim Amer, the deputy commander in Chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces, after a tour of the front where Egyptian and Palestine Liberation Army troops have replaced the departing United Nations Emergency Force.

Israel's call-up, a few hours earlier, was reported to be a partial one. Field-Marshal Amer's statement did not make it clear whether all Egypt's estimated 120,000 reservists were being mobilized.

Cairo reports said that Egyptian naval units, including torpedo boats, had passed recently through the Suez Canal, apparently making for the Red Sea. Meanwhile Ahmed Shukairy, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, tonight placed his 8,000 men under the military commands of Egypt, Syria, and Iraq.

At a press conference he said that a clash could come at any time—perhaps even tonight. "The spark might be touched off either by accident or incident", he said.

The stakes in the Middle East crisis thus continued to rise with nearly 48 hours still to go before U Thant was expected in Cairo for talks with President Nasser.

Arab League pledge

Indeed, there was some apprehension that he might arrive too late, as Israel ships were reported to be steaming towards the crucial Tiran Straits raising the question of whether Egypt would reimpose the ban on Israel shipping in the Gulf of Aqaba which she gave up after the 1956 Suez war.

Cairo radio said that Egyptian troops had taken up positions at Sharm el Sheikh, which dominates the strait.

The reputable French-language newspaper *L'Orient*, which reported the Israel shipping movements, said—and no one doubts it—that if Egypt shelled the vessels it would mean war again.

This would now be a large affair. Israel's forces are estimated at more than 300,000 men. Egypt and Syria alone must have more than 500,000 men under arms, and the Council of the Arab League, in a rare show of unanimity, yesterday agreed that aggression against one Arab state would be treated as an attack on all.

The effect of this startling rapprochement, from which only Tunisia was excepted, was, however, marred by the disclosure by the Cairo paper *Al Ahram* today that the United Arab Republic had turned down a proposal to call an emergency meeting of the Arab League defence council. Egypt was unwilling, the newspaper said, to disclose her plans to retrogressive Arab states—obviously Jordan and Saudi Arabia—which might pass them on to the very imperialists who were supporting Israel.

The depth of this split was further emphasized by more reports from Mecca radio of Egyptian high explosive and poison gas bomb attacks in Yemen which were said to have killed 200 people in a fortnight. There are also differences of emphasis between Syria and Egypt themselves.

Generals' views

Lieutenant-General Abdul Mohsen Kamel Mortagi, the commander of the Egyptian forces on the Israel front, said that it would take a large Israel attack to provoke retaliation. A single stray bullet would not cause war. Major-General Hafiz Assad, the Syrian Defence Minister, called for at least minimum disciplinary action and preferably an all-out national war of liberation.

Nevertheless, if differences exist, there were a number of developments round the Arab world connected with the crisis and mostly directed towards unity.

In Cairo today President Nasser called a meeting of the higher executive of the Arab Socialist Union, Egypt's highest policy-making body; and in Damascus the Syrian Cabinet met to make contacts with "progressive Arab states".

It was reported that China had sent a message to the Egyptian Government expressing support for its position.

BEIRUT, May 21.—Lebanon proclaimed a "state of defence" along its border with Israel today, an official said.—*Agence France Presse.*

Moscow journey decision today

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC STAFF

Mr. George Brown spent the weekend in London in a series of meetings with officials examining the Middle East situation. He will decide today whether to fly to Moscow tomorrow. If he does, it will be for two days only, devoted to talks with Mr. Gromyko, the Russian Foreign Minister.

British efforts to prevent a new Palestine war are being concentrated on the United Nations. Lord Caradon, the British Minister there, is in constant consultation with other representatives.

Tourists ignore war clouds; Saud accuses King Faisal; picture, page 4.

Egyptian Army Calls Up Its Reserves.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Monday, May 22, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56947.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001654

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S JOURNEY 'ADVANCED'

PLAN FOR UN PRESENCE

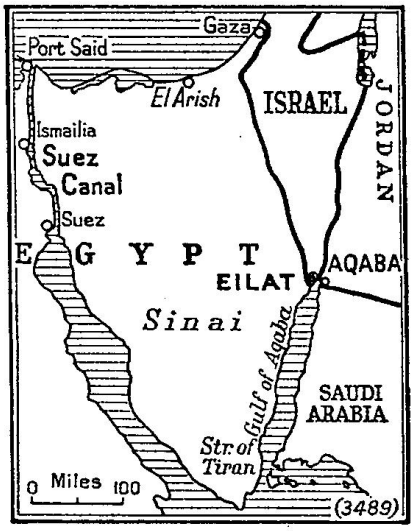
From ERIC BRITTER, United Nations Correspondent, New York, May 21

U Thant is to fly to Cairo tomorrow in an effort to ease the crisis in the Middle East, which he has called "more disturbing—indeed, more menacing—than at any time since 1956".

There is so far no indication that he means to go on to other centres such as Damascus, Amman or Tel Aviv. Presumably he regards President Nasser as the key figure in Middle East Affairs.

U Thant was to have visited Cairo next month, and members of his staff are now saying that he has "advanced his journey by a few weeks" because of his grave concern at recent events, including the enforced withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force from along the Egyptian-Israel border.

It is understood that his main objective is the maintenance of some kind of United Nations presence. Among the possibilities are the restoration or expansion of the functions of the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization



and the Egyptian-Israel Mixed Armistice Commisison.

The former at present patrols only the eastern borders of Israel to report on incidents with Jordan, Syria, Lebanon or Saudi Arabia. It is a very small organization.

The mixed armistice commission has never worked very well, and broke off its meetings some time ago when Israel withdrew. U Thant has been trying to bring it together again.

Over the weekend, consultations have been held here between leading delegates, including Mr. Arthur Goldberg (United States), Lord Caradon (Britain), Mr. George Ignatieff (Canada) and Senhor Sette Camara (Brazil).

Of the 15 nations of the Security Council only these four are believed to favour calling the council to discuss the implications of the Emergency Force's withdrawal. Most of the others do not feel that the council can hope to do much about it.

In particular, Russia and Bulgaria, both council members, back Egypt's stand in asking for the force to get out of the way. The former would certainly veto any western move to interpose a "buffer" between the opposing armies.

Plan For Un Presence.
From ERIC BRITTER, United Nations Correspondent

The Times (London, England),Monday, May 22, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56947.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17132726

TOURISTS IGNORE WAR CLOUDS

Cairo Britons unalarmed

From PETER HOPKIRK, Cairo, May 21

The clouds of war over the Middle East have not deterred the tourists, traditionally swift to cancel bookings at the drop of a rifle, from invading Egypt.

Hundreds are still pouring in by cruise ship and charter flight en route for the Pyramids, the Valley of Kings, and—the Durrell lovers—for Alexandria.

Apart from newly installed anti-aircraft guns at the airport, Cairo shows none of the usual signs of a country on a war footing. There are no demonstrations, massed bands or rumbling tanks.

Although Cairo has been officially in a state of alert since Wednesday, to people living here it all seems to be happening a long way off across the desert.

As one housewife from Wimbledon put it: "There is no feeling of danger. We are more worried about the children getting sunburnt than about bullets or bombs."

Until very recently, tourists came here only in the winter, but now the season spreads right through the year.

Luggage criterion

One travel agent told me: "The only difference between winter and summer tourists is in the quality of their luggage: winter visitors usually have a better grade of suitcase." He added that if there had been cancellations from America or Europe he would have heard by now.

In fact, the only real crisis felt here came the other day when Cairo was suddenly sealed off from the outside world—not by the military but by a rainstorm of exceptional violence, which knocked out telecommunications.

But it is this absence of the usual noisy display, which one expects when sabres are merely being rattled, that makes observers here feel this is not just another "Middle East crisis" likely to blow over in a day or two, or to be smoothed away by U Thant's diplomatic balm when he arrives here on Tuesday.

There are no plans for the evacuation of any British families at the moment, although all embassies have standing arrangements for safeguarding their citizens in the event of war.

Kindly husbands

The mass exodus after Suez has left only about 150 families in Egypt who regard Britain as their home, apart from embassy staff. There are many others who are technically British, and dozens of English women married to Egyptians, who have the reputation of making kindly husbands.

Meanwhile, from across the desert to the east, where a tense quiet is reported today on the Gaza frontier, comes some happier news. At their camp east of Gaza, members of the blue-helmeted United Nations force were today buying last-minute souvenirs for wives and sweethearts. I understand that a big farewell feast is being prepared for them by the Egyptian Governor of Gaza.

Tourists Ignore War Clouds.
From PETER HOPKIRK

The Times (London, England),Monday, May 22, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56947.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68775094

The workers, including office staff, began their sit-down strike last Tuesday, taking possession of the factory buildings.

Red flags out in Ruhr

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BONN, May 21

Red flags were seen in the Ruhr when 10,000 miners demonstrated at Oberhausen against the threatened closing of the Berlin-owned Concordia mine, which would affect 4,000 men and 20,000 dependants.

The demonstrators said they were not the flags of the Social Democratic Party, so presumably they represented the Communist Party, which is banned in west Germany. Banners read: "Stop mass dismissals", "We want sure work", and "The employers are on the beach while the miner is in the workhouse".

Call by Peking to cease violence

HONGKONG, May 21.—The Peking *People's Daily* today urgently called on "revolutionaries" throughout China to cease using "violence" at once in their struggle to win over the masses, Radio Peking reported. The *People's Daily* editorial was entitled: "Immediately stop the struggle by violence".

The editorial said: "An ill wind of struggle by violence has been disrupting production, breaking the revolutionary order, damaging state property and endangering people's lives."

The use of violence was also interfering with the general orientation of the struggle, it added. It quoted Defence Minister Lin Piao as saying: "Struggle by violence can touch the skin and flesh only but not the human soul."—*Agence France Presse.*

King Faisal accused by his deposed kinsman

CAIRO, May 21.—The former King Saud of Saudi Arabia tonight accused the present monarch, his half-brother King Faisal, of treason.

In a speech to the Saudi people over the Voice of the Arabs radio in Cairo, the former king said that King Faisal was selling himself to imperialism without shame or shyness and with reckless impudence.

He accused King Faisal, who is now visiting London, of demanding protection and thus debasing the Arab nation.

Addressing his half-brother directly, he said: "You have to know, Faisal, that the Arab peoples are repudiating your following of this treason, which is your character."

He expressed support for Egypt and Syria and called on the Saudi people to be ready for battle.

Deposed in 1964, the former king now lives in Egypt and has said that he wants to regain the throne.—*Reuter.*

King Husain sees U S envoy

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

AMMAN, MAY 21

King Husain has ordered the cancellation of the traditional Independence Day celebrations, usually marked this week every year by big military parades. He has also issued instructions to his Army to take all necessary measures to face every possibility.

After a Cabinet meeting last evening attended by military commanders and presided over by the King, he met Mr. Findley Burns, the American Ambassador in Amman, in the presence of Mr. Saad Juma, the Prime Minister.

Canada gloom at decision

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

OTTAWA, May 21

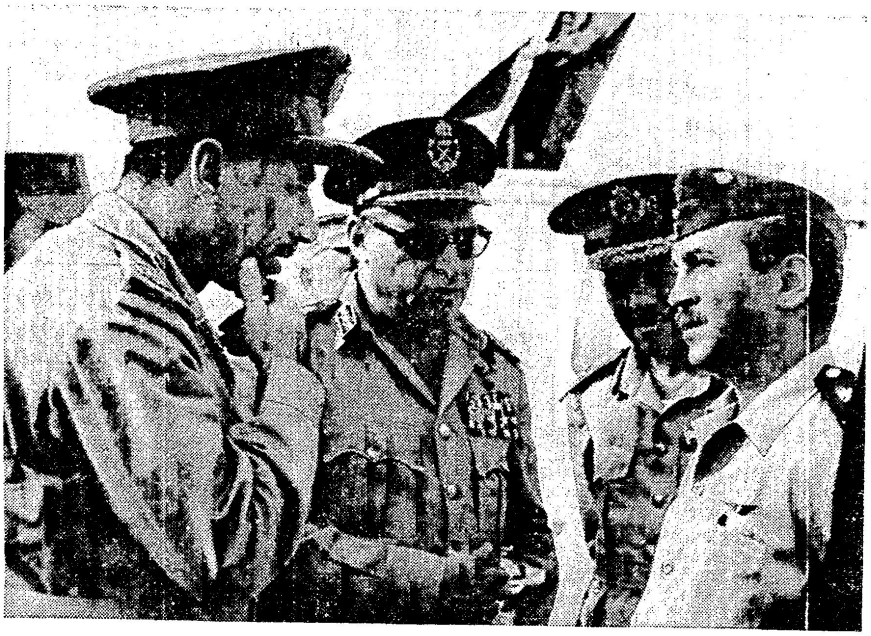
The Arab-Israel crisis and the withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force have created gloom in Canada. U Thant's decision to withdraw the force is seen here by some people as premature and as threatening not only peace in the Middle East but also United Nations peace-keeping operations in other parts of the world.

Canada contributes more than 800 officers and other ranks, mostly in a logistic capacity, to the force's strength of 3,400.

Role as peace-keeper

Mr. Paul Martin, the Minister of External Affairs, has virtually contradicted U Thant's views on the withdrawal of the force, and this has shown the deep concern that he and Mr. Lester Pearson, the Prime Minister, feel about the whole situation.

After all, one of the main points of Canadian foreign and defence policy is support of the United Nations role as peace-keeper. The Canadian armed services are now being reorganized into a unified force principally for "fire fighting" in any part of the world with particular emphasis on United Nations responsibilities.



Field Marshal Abdel Hakim Amer (left) speaking to his Army and Air Force commanders in the Gaza Strip.

King Faisal accused by his deposed kinsman.
The Times (London, England),Monday, May 22, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56947.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68906166

EGYPT CLOSES GULF OF AQABA TO ISRAEL SHIPS

Defiant move by Nasser raises Middle East tension

President Nasser announced last night that the United Arab Republic has decided to close the Gulf of Aqaba—Israel's southern outlet to the sea—to all ships flying Israel flags or carrying strategic materials.



Mr. L. Eshkol, Prime Minister of Israel, making his speech in the Knesset yesterday.

Speaking to airmen at an advanced Air Force headquarters in Sinai, he said all such ships would be forbidden to pass in and out of the Gulf past Sharm El Sheikh at the mouth of the Gulf.

"We are now face to face with Israel and if they want to try their luck without Britain and France, we await them", he said. "The Israel flag will not pass through Aqaba Gulf and our sovereignty over the Gulf entrance is not negotiable. If Israel wants to threaten us with war they are welcome."

President Nasser also said that if the United States, Britain and Israel had succeeded in keeping the U.N. peace force on the border against U.A.R. wishes, "we would have disarmed the force and considered it as alien".

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

President Nasser's reported decision means that the Middle East crisis has taken a further extremely serious turn. The Israel Government has often stated that the closing of the Gulf would be for them a ground for war.

The opening of the Gulf was the one gain derived by Israel from the Suez crisis, or, as Israelis call it, the Sinai campaign in 1956. Through Eilat, the Israel port at the head of the Gulf, passes all Israel's rapidly expanding trade with Asia and Africa, including the import of her oil supplies, largely from Iran to feed the pipeline constructed in recent years. The closing of the Gulf savagely throttles, if it does not completely strangle, the economic life of Israel.

Two conclusions can at once be drawn. Either Israel will strike at once, or, if she pauses, as she may well do, she may rely upon an international demand for this threat to peace to be taken up by the United Nations. There are indeed many United Nations members—Britain not least—who have a direct interest in the freedom of trade with Israel on the Gulf. The overriding interest will, of course, be the danger to peace.

Mr. Brown earlier in the evening in the B.B.C. Panorama programme singled out the threat to stop shipping through the Strait of Tiran as one of the two main dangers in the present situation, the other being the increased danger of incidents on the frontiers after the withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force from the Israel-U.A.R. border.

U Thant, the United Nations Secretary-General, was in the air on the way to Cairo when the announcement was made. In one sense it has cut the ground from under his feet.

A United States source in New York said last night that the Security Council might have to meet in emergency session, even in U Thant's absence, if Egypt implemented its decision to close the Gulf of Aqaba.

The Soviet Government and Communist Party Central Committee have sent a message to President Nasser expressing their support for the U.A.R. in the crisis, the Middle East Information Agency announced.

The message pledged the Soviet Union's support for "the President and people of the U.A.R. and the other Arab nations in their struggle to defend their countries and principles against imperialist conspiracies".

Mr Brown's Russia plan resumed

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, is now ready to fly to Moscow this morning and begin his postponed visit—unless a real shooting war breaks out in the Middle East.

The situation, however, although regarded in London as still menacing, seemed last night rather clearer than it did at the weekend. The visit of U Thant to Cairo was likely, it was believed, to have a steadying effect.

Mr. Brown is now taking with him to Moscow Mr. T. F. Brenchley, one of the Assistant Secretaries at the Foreign Office with responsibility for Middle East questions.

Speaking on the B.B.C. programme, *Panorama*, last night, Mr. Brown said he had been very disturbed that U Thant had withdrawn the United Nations peace-keeping force

"We have", he said, "to engage the United Nations in this dangerous situation."

Asked about the possibility of British military action, Mr. Brown replied: "I hope we can avoid that. Nobody is looking forward to setting that place alight."

Gibraltar talks invitation

The Spanish Government yesterday delivered a further Note on Gibraltar to the British Embassy in Madrid. This continues the intricate minuet which the two sides have been dancing so formally around each other.

The text of the Note had not been received in London last night, but from preliminary reports from Madrid it is clear that it offers talks with the British Government, without making plain what the agenda is to be.

Call to cut forces

From NICHOLAS HERBERT, Beirut, May 22

Israel today proposed a mutual reduction of troop concentrations in the Middle East, while its Arab neighbours laid plans to strengthen still further their forces round her borders.

Iraq said it would move its forces into the front line in Syria and Egypt, and the Lebanese Government said some reservists were being called up.

Lebanese military missions left for Cairo and Damascus to coordinate military moves—the latest in a growing criss-cross of inter-Arab military and political journeying.

President Nasser made his first semi-public appearance since the Middle East crisis flared up a week ago when he visited advanced Egyptian air force units in Sinai.

Earlier it was disclosed that he had accepted an Iraq offer of Army and Air Force units to serve on the border. There was no quick reaction to the proposal by Mr. Levi Eshkol, the Israel Prime Minister, for a return to the *status quo ante* but that would now require a great deal of dismantling by the Arab states.

In Damascus, Mr. Anatoli Berkovsky, the Soviet Ambassador, conferred with Dr. Yusuf Zeayen, the Prime Minister, amid rumours that the Soviet Union was trying to exercise a restraining hand on the Syrian Government.

Unconfirmed reports said the United States Sixth Fleet was cruising off Gaza, but it was officially denied in Cyprus that British troops there had been put on the alert.

The Middle East thus continued to wind itself up against a background of world-wide diplomacy, involving the United States, Britain, Russia and the United Nations, whose Secretary-General, U Thant, was setting out for Cairo tonight.

Threat to Israel Shipping	**page 8**
Leading article	**9**
Cartoon	**5**



President Nasser (left) and Field Marshal Abdel Hakim Amer (right) joking with Egyptian pilots during a visit to advanced air force headquarters yesterday.

Chichester TV yacht in tow

BY A STAFF REPORTER

The 194-ton yacht Braemar was towed to Newlyn, Cornwall, last night by the St. Mary's lifeboat, after a day of battering by gale-force winds and heavy seas.

The lifeboat took 16 men off the yacht. Three men, including the skipper, remained on board.

The yacht, with seven Rediffusion technicians and an Independent Television News reporter on board, radioed early yesterday that her engine room was flooded and that she was in great difficulty. Three ships went to her assistance, and after several attempts a line was put on board by the lifeboat.

The Braemar left Falmouth on Saturday under charter to I.T.N. to test the range within which live television pictures of Sir Francis Chichester's return could be broadcast.

An earlier message from the I.T.N. reporter on board, Mr. Richard Lindley, said the rope between the lifeboat and the Braemar had parted several times.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will receive Sir Francis Chichester at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, on the morning of Tuesday, June 13, and not on June 2, as was provisionally arranged, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday. The Queen is to dub Sir Francis with the sword given by Queen Elizabeth I to Sir Francis Drake.

Painter's cradle falls: 5 hurt

Two girls aged 10 were taken to hospital last night when a painter's cradle fell 100ft. at a 14-storey block of flats at Harper Mead Point, Granville Road, Cricklewood, N.W.

The girls, Shirley Galloway and Cindy Hart, were playing when the



MANY DEATHS IN STORE BLAZE

Belgians leap from roof

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—Brussels, May 22

Brussels police disclosed tonight that they searched for a bomb in another branch of L'Innovation—the department store which was still blazing last night—a week ago.

They said they had searched the other branch after an anonymous warning.

The police appealed for anyone in the Rue Neuve at the time of the blaze today to come forward with any information, however trivial.

The fire broke out at lunchtime. Three people trapped on the roof jumped to their deaths.

More than an hour later one of the bodies still lay on the roof of a parked car.

The store was filled with shopping crowds and visitors to an American trade promotion exhibition. The interior was filled with Stars and Stripes and American slogans, and a big stock of paper frocks added fuel to the blaze.

An hour later Kenny Clarke and his Sextet and the Golden Gate Quartet would have been performing in the store to a crowded audience. While the first people were escaping from the building, a man rushed into the store and began looting the counters. He was chased out and arrested.

56 dead

There were about 1,000 people in the store at the time of the outbreak. The alarm system did not function, but the alarm was given by repeated ringing of the service bell. Many people did not understand what this meant until they saw the smoke and flames.

BRUSSELS, May 22.—The fire raged out of control, spreading to neighbouring buildings and threatened a large area. A whole side of the store collapsed with a roar, covering fire engines with blazing rubble, but no firemen were injured.

Last night the death roll stood at 56. About 100 other people are known to have been injured.

The fire started in the furniture department on the fourth floor. Violent explosions shook the building every few minutes.

Deputy fire chief Jacques Mesmans said: "I picked up one poor woman who jumped out of a second floor window and shattered both legs on the pavement underneath. One man was transformed into a living torch before my eyes as he hesitated to leap from a high



The Queen during her visit to the Chelsea Flower Show yesterday. More show pictures on page 12.

Plea to her children by Svetlana

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, May 22.—In an article written for the *Atlantic Monthly*, Mrs. Svetlana Alliluyeva, daughter of Stalin, pleads with her children "do not reject me in your hearts" for leaving the Soviet Union in quest of free expression.

Her son, Yakov, a 22-year-old medical student, and daughter Katya, 17, are both in Moscow. She urged them to ignore any government-inspired disapproval of her departure.—*New York Times News Service.*

"We will meet again", page 4.

Offer to publish 'Sunday Citizen'

Egypt Closes Gulf Of Aqaba To Israel Ships.
BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, May 23, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56948.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001655

Late last night Egyptian guns closed the vital waterway of the Strait of Tiran

Economic pressure may force Israel to react quickly

From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME, Defence Correspondent,
Eilat, Israel, May 22

By his reported decision to close the Strait of Tiran, PRESIDENT NASSER has struck at Israel in one of her most sensitive areas. Eilat is her gateway to the East and the vital supplies of oil.

The Egyptians are in a position to prevent ships passing through the Straits by firing on them from the reoccupied post at Sharm el Shaikh. Israel has stated that she will attack Egypt if this happens, but officials have so far been reluctant to draw attention to the position at all.

Most of Israel's oil supplies now come through Eilat, which has been built up from nothing after the Israel Army freed the Gulf of Aqaba from Egyptian control in 1956. The oil is pumped from Eilat to the refinery at Haifa and so bypasses the Suez Canal in reaching the Mediterranean.

Dangerous approach for tankers

The pipepline has a capacity of 4,500,000 tons a year, against Israel's fuel needs of 2,500,000 to 3m. tons. Only about 200,000 of this is produced in Israel.

Ninety-five miles south of Eilat the tankers have to pass within half a mile of the Egyptian outpost as the Straits of Tiran are treacherous and the narrow channel is surrounded by dangerous coral reefs.

Command of this channel would present no difficulty to the Egyptians, who apparently showed little discrimination over which ships they threatened before 1956.

The Israelis have a dozen ships trading from Eilat. Most of these are on charter and fly the flags of several different countries.

Jordanians unlikely to intervene

Last year one ship was chartered from Cunard. This year the ships are chartered from Greece, Holland, Sweden, Denmark and Liberia. There are normally about 100 sailings a year

The precious pipeline runs a gauntlet between Egypt and Jordan, since Israel is only seven miles wide at Eilat. There are no signs of Egyptian Army units in the desert this far south, but the call up of reserves has affected Eilat as well as the rest of the country.

Jordan's only port, at Aqaba, is just around the bay. There is unlikely to be much trouble from the Jordanians, who would have more to lose from an Israel retaliation against their only outlet to the sea.

Apart from oil, Eilat handles only about 5 per cent of Israel's trade. The yearly tonnage of shipping now runs at 200,000, and until this reaches one million tons the Israel Government will not extend the railway line to the coast.

Without Eilat, however, Israel would have virtually no trade with East Africa, the Far East, Australia and New Zealand, all of which are expanding markets.

In the present atmosphere of tension, *time is not on* Israel's side. She has had to react to the situation by calling up a large number of reserves, but the economy, already ailing slightly, cannot afford for long to be bled of the highly qualified manpower which has been taken back into the army.

Fear of economic strangulation

The Arab countries can certainly afford to mass their armies on Israel's border for longer than Israel can remain at a high state of military readiness. There is a danger that pressure from within might oblige Israel to do something quickly rather than submit to the economic strangulation of a long period of unrelieved tension.

On the other side, it is possible that Egypt may be goaded by Syria and Jordan into showing that she intends to make use of the Sharm el Shaikh outpost by resuming the embargo on Israel shipping.

The build-up could lead suddenly to war if another series of Syrian-sponsored guerrilla attacks were made on Israel. Mr. Eshkol, the Israel Prime Minister, has said that Israel would have no alternative but to take appropriate countermeasures against the saboteurs and their abettors.

If Israel were to retaliate sharply against the guerillas, Syria would invoke the help of Egypt, and after all the bluster and build-up of the past week President Nasser would find it hard not to take some action against Israel.



Eilat: Israel's gateway to the East threatened by Egyptian reoccupation of the Tiran strait.

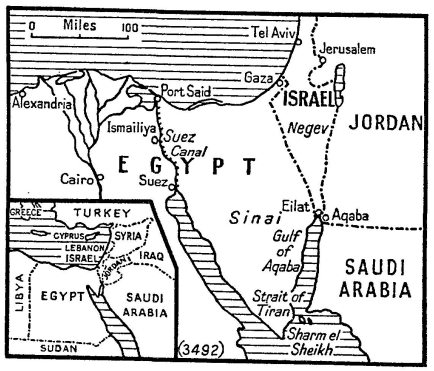
Such action is unlikely to be invasion, but could amount to a renewal of Egyptian-sponsored attacks across the Gaza border, or interference with shipping. In either case, Israel would be tempted, indeed would be under almost intolerable pressure to retaliate sharply against Egypt. With a large Egyptian army now stationed in Sinai, it is hard to see what effective retaliation Israel could make, without provoking a general holocaust in the area.

Militarily speaking Israel could probably account for the Egyptian army in Sinai in a land engagement, even if the Syrians were to take advantage of the situation and make extra trouble in the north east.

Role of Egyptian Air Force

But whereas, at the time of Suez, the Egyptian Air Force was put out of action by British bombers, no such assistance would be available for the Israel Government now, and it would be idle to suppose that the Egyptian Government would allow its Army to be humiliated for a second time in Sinai without bringing its Air Force heavily into play.

In spite of Israel's well equipped Air Force, this small country, with a central area of fairly dense population, cannot afford to take the chance of defending herself adequately in an air war.



The margin for military action by Israel appears to be very small. Yet further military provocation, probably of a pinprick nature like today's firing of a cornfield at Gaza, appears a very likely course for the Arabs to adopt.

Provided the Arabs keep their provocations at low level and avoid interfering with shipping, Israel will have to be politically very circumspect in her reactions. On the face of it, in the Arab world at least, she may have to put up with a distinct propaganda defeat when the provocations go largely unanswered.

U Thant flies for talks in Cairo

FROM OUR UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, MAY 22

U Thant, the Secretary General, was flying tonight to Cairo to meet President Nasser to see what can be done to repair the torn fabric of peace in the Middle East.

According to a United Nations spokesman here, U Thant has no intention of visiting Israel or any other country in the area. He expects to be back here on Friday.

Speaking in the General Assembly today Lord Caradon, the British delegate, said that the events in the Middle East had given dramatic urgency to the debate on peace-keeping. Had Britain's example over contributions to United Nations funds been followed by more member states, the position of the United Nations today would be immeasurably better.

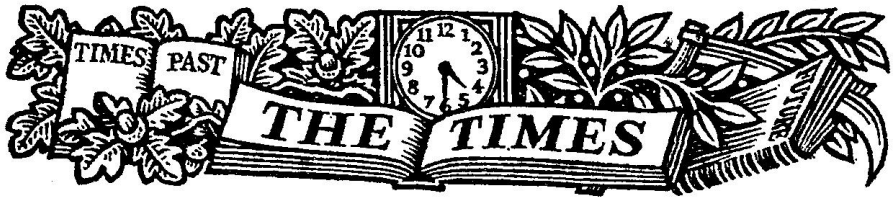
He pledged Britain's full support of U Thant in his mission to Cairo.

Late last night Egyptian guns closed the vital waterway of the Strait of Tiran.
From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME, Defence Correspondent

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, May 23, 1967; pg. 8; Issue 56948.

Category: News

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THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

In the hour of crisis all Arabs stand shoulder to shoulder; troops mobilize and offers of help flash to and fro. The fact that all this has happened often before, and that everyone knows most of the troops are not going to move and that some of them would not be much use even if they did, makes it tempting to think the whole performance is sound and fury.

But there is one element that is new and that justifies U THANT'S extreme concern and hurried journey to Cairo. The disappearance of United Nations forces from the Sinai peninsula turns the Gulf of Aqaba back into what it was before 1956—a bottleneck leading to Israel's only east-looking port, the entrance to which is now again commanded by Arab batteries. Israel has often said in the past that interference with shipping in the Gulf would be a *casus belli*; and late last night PRESIDENT NASSER was reported to have claimed to have closed it to Israeli vessels and any ships carrying strategic supplies for Israel.

The immediate crisis has arisen through fear of a preemptive attack by Israel in another region—on the Syrian border. Goaded by Arab guerrillas, encouraged and probably organized by Syria, the Israel Government let it be known that its patience was wearing thin. Whether the Syrians have been trying to provoke the Egyptians into action as much as the Israelis, and whether NASSER was taken by surprise at the speed with which the United Nations pulled out, are questions no longer particularly relevant. What matters is that the status quo has been upset. This could have unpredictable consequences.

As in cold war Europe, peace in the Middle East has been a matter of balanced deterrence. Both sides have known more or less how far they can go without a war. It has always been when one side did something novel that tension mounted. Iraq's 1958 revolution and Israel's diversion of the Jordan waters have been examples. Egypt's reoccupation of Sinai is the latest.

It is at this stage that the outside world has to step in. The United Nations may not appear to have much standing as it is in the process of clearing out of the area. But U THANT has a strong personal reputation, and could be a great saver of faces. He is obliged to deal with things as they are, and not as they should be, that is to say with existing boundaries and rights. Can he even now get an undertaking from NASSER that Israel shipping will be able to go on using the Gulf of Aqaba? If he does, NASSER will be accused by his Arab rivals as an over-conciliatory champion. If he does not, the risk of an attack by Israel will still be there. At the moment his Sinai moves have put him in a strong bargaining position, and NASSER is a man who likes a bargain. So does U THANT. Can they strike one which will satisfy the other Arabs, let alone Israel?

The Middle East Crisis.
The Times (London, England),Tuesday, May 23, 1967; pg. 9; Issue 56948.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS151219383

War risk rates escalate after Middle and Far East crisies

By KEITH PAYNE and RICHARD CASEMENT

War risk insurance rates on all shipping routes to trouble spots in the Far and Middle East were raised sharply yesterday.

The War Risks Rating Committee of the Institute of London Underwriters posted new charges which in most cases increased the pure war risk from 9d. to 2s. 6d. per cent.

The new, inclusive charge on many routes, to cover war and strikes and the risk from the point of discharge to inner destinations is now 5s. per cent.

The new scales follow the forecast in *The Times* on Saturday that revised ratings were about to be announced. In the case of routes to Israel via Egypt (including the Suez Canal), Jordan, Lebanon, Syria or the Gulf of Aqaba, the committee took the unusual step of leaving any new rating to the discretion of underwriters. Aden and Yemen now also carry a basic war risk rate of 2s. 6d. per cent, while the Eastern region of Nigeria is listed as "held covered", which means in effect that underwriters must decide themselves what rate the war risk warrants.

A "wait and see" attitude was being adopted yesterday by the shipping conferences for both the Far East and Middle East freights, but some lines were reported to be changing the clauses in their contracts which would permit them to sail round the Cape of Good Hope rather than through the Suez. P. & O. said it already had this clause on its Middle East routes. The last P. & O. ship to dock at Kowloon, the 14,000 ton Cathay with 230 passengers, anchored safely.

Business on all freight and passenger routes was proceeding normally yesterday, though freight rates were expected to harden.

Tourist trade to Israel appears to have been little affected. Only two passengers apparently failed to turn up for a flight taking 120 passengers from London at the weekend. The Export Credits Guarantee Department was continuing yesterday to offer full cover on Middle East export business qualifying for cheap bank credit. Its total liability on goods sent to Egypt and Israel is at present around £10m.

Another bout of petrol rationing can probably be avoided, even if the Suez Canal were to be closed again. In the last Suez crisis nearly every European country introduced some form of petrol rationing. But the oil industry believes a similar situation today would cause much less embarrassment. An initial delay of a fortnight in the arrival of oil supplies might be caused, the Petroleum Information Bureau reckons both Shell and British Petroleum are confident that a shortage will not materialize.

The oil companies are much more flexible than 10 years ago. Libya and Nigeria are now good sources of petroleum and supplies from them could be increased. Bigger and faster tankers, some of which cannot get through the canal anyway, make it easier to take the Cape route. In 1956 there were no tankers in the 50,000 to 100,000-ton class but in 1965 there were 25 and two of more than 100,000. This is a fairly good time for a crisis, too. Shell points out that the winter is over, supplies from Venezuela are strong and stocks are high in Europe generally.

Unless war escalates into a larger Middle Eastern flare-up oil installations are unlikely to be endangered. There are no oilfields within easy reach of the Israel border.

War risk rates escalate after Middle and Far East crisies.
By KEITH PAYNE and RICHARD CASEMENT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, May 23, 1967; pg. 17; Issue 56948.

Category: Business and Finance

Gale Document Number:CS285437111

WASHINGTON CONDEMNS BLOCKADE OF ISRAEL

UN meets today : Minister off to US : Mr Brown in Moscow

President Johnson said in Washington last night that a blockade of Israel shipping by Egypt would be illegal and that the United States was firmly committed to the support of the territorial integrity of all the nations of the Middle East. In Jerusalem, Mr. Levi Eshkol, the Israel Prime Minister, told the Knesset that interference with shipping in the Gulf of Aqaba would be an act of aggression.



Mr. George Brown at Heathrow Airport before leaving for Moscow last night.

British warships in the Mediterranean have been placed on alert. Mr. George Thomson, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, left early today for Washington and New York for discussions. Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, arrived in Moscow last night.

As U Thant, the United Nations Secretary-General, arrived in Cairo last night, it was announced in New York that the Security Council would meet today.

BRITISH WARSHIPS PUT ON ALERT

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC STAFF

It was confirmed in Whitehall last night that British warships in the Mediterranean have been alerted. In particular the aircraft carrier Victorious, which was off Malta on passage from the Far East, is being held with other naval units in the Mediterranean.

Mr. George Thomson was flying to Washington early today for urgent consultations with the United States Government on the Middle East situation. From Washington he will go on to New York to discuss with Lord Caradon, British Minister to the United Nations, whether a Security Council meeting should be called.

He will return either tonight or tomorrow.

The move was decided after a 3½-hour Cabinet meeting yesterday afternoon, which Mr. Thomson attended, as did Sir Elwyn Jones, the Attorney General. Neither is in the Cabinet. Mr. George Brown postponed his departure for Moscow yet again to attend.

Passage of strait

Mr. Brown finally left at 6.30 p.m. He hopes to remain in Moscow until Friday, but should the situation deteriorate sharply he might have to return this evening. He will devote at least the first day's discussions with Mr. Gromyko, the Russian Foreign Minister, to the Middle East.

He will urge the Russians to use their influence with Egypt and Syria to persuade them to refrain from acts of hostility, and will seek Russian cooperation in bringing the dispute to the Security Council. Unless the Russians can be persuaded of the urgency of averting a war in the Middle East, a meeting of the Security Council would serve little purpose, as Russia would veto any western resolution calling on Egypt to allow Israel ships to use the Strait of Tiran freely.

The Foreign Office issued a statement yesterday affirming that the strait is an international waterway which should remain open to ships of all nations. The statement went on: "If it appeared that any attempt to interfere with ships going through the waterway was likely to be made, we should support international action through the United Nations to secure free passage."

Britons to leave

British subjects now in Israel, Egypt, or the western part of Jordan have been recommended to leave by the Foreign Office. People planning to go there are advised to stay at home, and British subjects now in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and the eastern half of Jordan are recommended to make preparations to leave at short notice.

The advice, issued yesterday, is couched in carefully moderate language.

There are comparatively few British residents in these countries —fewer than 2,000 in Egypt, about 6,000 in Israel, only 650 in Syria —and many are of Commonwealth origin. The people who will be most affected, of course, are tourists, comparatively few in times of the £50 travel allowance.



U Thant, the United Nations Secretary-General (right), greeted by Mr. Mahmoud Riad, Foreign Minister of the United Arab Republic, on his arrival in Cairo yesterday. Other pictures, page 10.

Mr Johnson condemns blockade

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, MAY 23

President Johnson tonight condemned the Arab blockade of Israel shipping in the Gulf of Aqaba as "illegal and potentially disastrous to the cause of peace".

He called on all concerned in the Middle East crisis to seek peace through restraint. In a strongly worded statement the President said:—

"The purported closing of the Gulf of Aqaba to Israeli shipping has brought a new and grave dimension to the crisis.

"The United States considers the gulf to be an international waterway."

The American Government, he said, had urged U Thant, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to recognize the sensitivity of the Aqaba question and to give it the highest priority in his discussions with the Government of the United Arab Republic.

Mr. Johnson condemned the "hurried withdrawal" of the United Nations emergency force from Gaza and Sinai, and the "recent build-up of military forces in the area".

"The United States is firmly committed to the support of the political independence and territorial integrity of all the nations of the area", he said.

The United States earnestly supported "all efforts, in and outside the United Nations, and through its appropriate organs, including the Secretary-General, to reduce tensions and restore stability".

Tankers facing Egyptian challenge Page 10
Mr. Heath calls for UN action Page 10
Leading article Page 11
Impact on British firms Page 19

Jordan breaks with Syria

From NICHOLAS HERBERT

BEIRUT, MAY 23

The Middle East was flirting with war tonight. President Nasser brought the crisis to flashpoint by declaring a ban on Israel shipping in the Gulf of Aqaba.

The Cabinet in Tel Aviv at once went into session to discuss a move which Israel has always said would be an act of war.

In an internecine Arab dispute over a border explosion in which 16 people were killed, Jordan expelled the Syrian ambassador and recalled its mission from Damascus.

In the excitement it was largely overlooked that command of the Tiran Strait into the Gulf of Aqaba also gave Egypt control over Jordan's only port.

By early evening there had been no sign that Egypt had begun to enforce the ban in the Tiran Strait. There was little doubt, however, of its ability to do again what it did in the years before the Suez war opened the strait.

Egypt was reported to be reopening a customs post at Sharm el Shaikh to examine the cargoes of ships going to the Israel port of Eilat but, apart from oil, it was not clear what would be regarded as strategic goods or how exactly ships would be inspected.

Crowd cries 'We shall win'

From PETER HOPKIRK—Cairo, May 23

Looking rather grave, U Thant, the United Nations Secretary-General, arrived in Cairo tonight from New York. After sipping iced lemonade with Mahmoud Riad, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, and Major-General Rikhye, the Indian Commander of the United Nations Emergency Force, for 20 minutes, he left the airport by car with two United Nations officials.

I learnt tonight that U Thant will not be seeing President Nasser before tomorrow morning. There had been expectations that they might meet tonight.

Excitement began to build up tonight in Cairo, which has hitherto been quiet. Buses with loudspeakers on their roofs toured the city playing martial songs.

At the airport the small crowd which greeted U Thant shouted "We shall win."

Hundreds of young Egyptians stood outside U Thant's hotel tonight shouting: "We want to go to war."

Policemen with riot shields and staves stood by. Earlier four buses carrying the demonstrators had circled the hotel.

After demonstrating for more than an hour, the young people spread into the streets shouting: "Give us arms" and other war-like slogans.

Embargo on arms sales denied

BY THE NEWS TEAM

Commenting on reports of a cancellation of an arms shipment to Israel from Gatwick Airport yesterday, a Foreign Office spokesman said there had been no embargo on British arms sales to the Middle East as a result of the present crisis.

Reports have been circulating at Gatwick since Friday that several Israeli military aircraft were due there to pick up undisclosed loads, presumed to be arms. Israel is known to have been importing arms from Britain for some time.

There was some evidence yesterday that this traffic had been interrupted. It was said unofficially at the airport that all incoming Israeli military flights, including one scheduled for today, had been cancelled.

A British European Airways official at the airport, asked about possible Israeli arms shipments, said: "The export licences have been revoked and the arms are now going by sea."

This tallied with a Ministry of Defence statement last night that "no warlike material for Israel has been dispatched from Gatwick since the Middle East crisis began".

Elsewhere there were denials that the mysterious shipment had ever been planned. The Israel Embassy said they knew of no cancellation of export licences, and had been expecting no aircraft at Gatwick. Israel aircraft did call there occasionally, but none had arrived for six weeks. The purpose of the aircraft's calls was to pick up equipment which could include small quantities of ammunition.

300 FEARED DEAD IN BRUSSELS FIRE

Insurance loss over £7m

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—Brussels, May 23

It is feared that more than 300 people died in the fire which destroyed L'Innovation, the Brussels department store, yesterday. So far 32 bodies have been recovered, and late today it was announced that 281 people were unaccounted for.

"We must presume that these people are dead", said M. Pierre Bolle, vice-chairman of L'Innovation. Police are investigating the possibility that the fire was started deliberately by left-wing elements in protest at the "American fortnight" which opened at the store last week.

Among the missing is Mrs Marie Theodora Medlicott, aged 56, the wife of Mr. Ronald Medlicott, of Kings Walden, Hertfordshire, a director of Tanganyika Concessions and Union Minière du Haut Katanga. She is a daughter of Baron Monscheur, the first Belgian Ambassador in London after the First World War.

When the rubble is cleared there will be little left of two blocks of buildings, many of which were old and already scheduled for demolition.

A police inspector said that British visitors to Belgium should let their friends or families at home know that they are safe.

"It will be at least two days before the fires are all out, perhaps a fortnight before we have combed the debris for human remains", he said.

"For Belgian residents we have a growing list of names reported missing, but tourist visitors may not be missed until their holiday is over."

A total loss

The Queen has sent the following message to the King of the Belgians: "I am deeply distressed to learn of the tragic loss of life in the fire in Brussels yesterday. My husband joins with me in sending our sincere sympathy to you and to the people of Belgium."

Our City Staff write: The building and stock were insured for 855m. Belgian francs (nearly £6m. and are a total loss. The insurance for loss of profits will bring the total to at least £7m.

There will be workmen's compensation claims for members of the staff killed or injured.

The burden on London underwriters should be between £2,190,000 and £2,440,000, of which Lloyd's will bear about £840,000.

Picture on page 5.

Russia gives warning to Israel

Moscow, May 23.—The Soviet Government said tonight that anyone who ventured to unleash aggression in the Middle East "would encounter not only the united strength of the Arab countries but also resolute resistance to aggression on the part of the Soviet Union and all peace-loving states".

The statement, quoted by Tass, expressed the conviction that the peoples were not interested in fanning a military conflict in the Near East. "Only a handful of colonial oil monopolies and their hangers-on can be interested in such a conflict. Only the forces of imperialism, in the wake of whose policy Israel follows, can be interested in this."

The Soviet Government was watching developments.—*Reuter.*

Nuclear test in Nevada

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, MAY 23

A large thermonuclear device with a maximum force 50 times that of the bomb which destroyed Hiroshima, was exploded underground at the Nevada testing grounds today.

The blast was registered by seismographs on the eastern seaboard. The Rev. Joseph Lynch director o fthe seismic observatory at Fordham University, New York, said that his instruments just barely picked up the explosion. "Obviously they are trying to find out how to muffle these underground tests."

'MARVELLOUS I HAVE NOTHING WORSE'

CHICHESTER HAS ARM TROUBLE

From SIR FRANCIS CHICHESTER, on board Gipsy Moth IV, May 23

This will probably be my last message to you. Unless something goes wrong, Gipsy Moth IV ought to be in her usual mooring in Plymouth Sound by this time next week. But we could well be headed by a north-easter at this time of the year, or by gear or crew accidents.

Gipsy Moth has cantered along gaily, 625 miles in the past four days, and is now 750 miles west-south-west of the Lizard. But the skipper has not been so happy.

On Friday an abscess which developed in my elbow played up and I spent my spare time putting on scalding hot packs. I used a cloth with a picture of the House of Commons on it, which seemed to keep the heat better than the others.

Hard as bone

The arm began hurting above the elbow up to the armpit. The lump at the elbow was nearly as hard as bone and measures 4½in. long by 2½in. wide. I had to take some painkiller for the seventh night within the past fortnight in order to get some sleep.

I am not complaining: it makes me think how marvellous that I have nothing worse. It is now better, but still requires hot packs to quieten it down at intervals.



These take time as we have had a big rough sea with a north-west wind up to 35 knots and it has been dangerous to move in the cabin without a firm handhold.

I feel sure my elbow is not due to vitamin deficiency, although I have not taken a single vitamin tablet on this passage, because I reckon my diet has plenty. Somehow that elbow always got the cracks and bumps from winches, winch handles and the like and it even seemed to hit the galley taps every day.

Luckily the wind kept pretty constant in direction, but I had to turn out to drop the mainsail in a gale squall one night and I had some trouble this morning. The wire splice of the mizzen halyards drew at the head of the sail. The halyard came down inside the mast and the sail outside it.

I need that sail badly but could not get to the masthead to replace the halyard in this sea. I decided I could use the mizzen staysail halyard if I could get it over the crosstree. I tried to pull it over with the boathook standing on the mizzen boom but the 8ft. boathook is made of heavy water-logged wood, and I could not hold it against the wind.

Thwarted by cramp

Next I tried shinning up the mast, but halfway up I got cramp in my instep and gave that up. Then at last my wits came to the surface. I made up a heaving line with a shackle for a weight, threw it over the crosstree after many failures and used it to pull the halyard over.

The mizzen is now set again to my delight though I must admit I had a very sore arm afterwards.

I am sorry I had never tried out the special oil which was given me in Australia for calming the sea in a bad storm. What you think you will do in a storm and what you can do are very different things. A small boat moving forward leaves the oil patch behind. I think it would be invaluable if it was necessary to abandon ship and I would always carry some.

Last week I mentioned the trouble I was having recently with baking bread. I believe I wrongly accused the Australian paraffin of not being hot enough. I now think the flame was much hotter than I was used to and hardened the outside of the loaf preventing the inside from cooking. The wonderful cooking I planned for this voyage never turned up. I arrived in Australia half starved because I did not bring enough prepared food in tins and so on.

I find I never want to do anything unless I must. For instance, yesterday I was mending a sail in the time left over after routine jobs. I needed the sail badly so I did it. But I had no spare energy or time to prepare a fancy dish. One of the things I am looking forward to in London is a rush round the corner to Charles for the finest lunch of all time.

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Sir Francis Chichester will probably arrive in Plymouth next Sunday or Monday. A limited number of medals to commemorate the voyage are to be struck by Spink and Son Ltd. The Corporation of London luncheon is to be on June 13.

Washington Condemns Blockade Of Israel.
BY OUR DIPLOMATIC STAFF

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, May 24, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56949.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001656

EGYPT BLOCKADE: TANKERS MAY BRING SHOWDOWN

Mr Eshkol calls for support from the great powers

From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME, Defence Correspondent
Tel Aviv, May 23

Mr. Eshkol, Prime Minister of Israel, tonight reaffirmed his Government's policy of 10 years' standing that Egyptian interference with Israel shipping in the Strait of Tiran would be regarded as an act of war. He was making a statement in the Knesset in Jerusalem in response to the Cairo announcement that Egyptian forces would halt Israel shipping on its way to the port of Eilat.

Mr. Eshkol appealed to the great powers to see that the freedom of shipping was under-



Mr. Abba Eban, Israel Foreign Minister, goes to an emergency meeting over the crisis in Tel Aviv yesterday.

lined in accordance with undertakings given in 1957, when United Nations forces took over from Israel at Sharm el Sheikh, overlooking the strait.

He gave no indication of the action which Israel is now prepared to take to safeguard her shipping. Nevertheless, Israel tonight is obviously close to war.

When the embargo will actually be tested by the attempted passage of an Israel ship is uncertain, as sailing dates are being kept secret.

In the next few weeks, at least five cargo ships and as many tankers should sail. Most of the ships fly the flags of countries other than Israel, but Egypt's statement referring to strategic goods presumably includes all oil tankers.

Liner earmarked for evacuation

Most of Israel's oil is shipped through Eilat for transfer by pipeline to the Haifa refinery. One ship has passed through the straits since Friday. Others may be delayed or could be let through if their cargo is not strategic.

Cairo's statement led to a full Cabinet meeting in Tel Aviv instead of in Jerusalem, the normal venue, because the Defence Ministry is here. Party leaders were called in, to ensure the fullest possible support for the Government's action.

In the Knesset backbenchers covering the entire political spectrum awaited Mr. Eshkol's statement. They assumed that war was unavoidable, but hoped for a quick campaign.

The British Embassy advised local British subjects to leave unless their jobs obliged them to stay. There are believed to be about 2,000 Britons in Israel, but only a handful are expected to leave.

The Cunard liner Caronia, whose present cruise itinery includes Haifa, has been earmarked as a useful means of transport should massive evacuation become necessary.

British Embassy precautions seem to indicate the fear here that in the event of hostilities Egypt might bomb populated areas, since her forces are likely to prove inferior in any strictly military engagement in the Sinai desert.

Israel's supersonic fighters, now on permanent alert, could not prevent the occasional bomber getting through.

What can Israel do militarily to ensure the free passage of ships through the Aqaba Gulf? If action is to be taken, it will probably be taken soon, before Egypt's defences at Sharm el Sheikh are improved.

It is difficult for Israel to take any conclusive action there short of reoccupying the area and then awaiting the reinstatement of the United Nations force before pulling out her own troops.

It is a subject of dissatisfaction here that assurances given by the United Nations at the time of the last Israel withdrawal from Sharm el Sheikh have not meant anything. It was implicit in these that the Gulf should be open to shipping. The Israelis say that without these assurances they would not have withdrawn.

Egypt now better prepared

Egypt is better prepared than in 1956, and it is impossible to imagine another Israel land or parachute attack succeeding. Yet an air strike knocking out Sharm el Sheikh's batteries would be only a temporary measure and difficult to repeat every time they were rebuilt by Egypt.

If Israel rejects the idea of specific local action against Sharm el Sheikh, her only other course would be a major action against the Egyptian infantry and armoured divisions in Sinai, in the hope that a major setback there would induce Egypt to climb down over shipping.

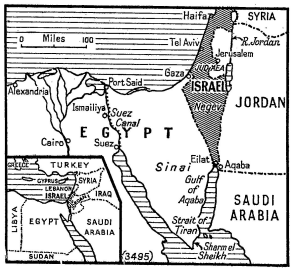
But this is dangerous logic, for if the action went against Egypt, she might seek some more demonstrative military achievement such as the bombing of Tel Aviv.

In spite of the apparent inevitability of war, there are no great public signs of alarm in Israel beyond some stockpiling of food and groups collecting in public places for the news bulletins.

EILAT, ISRAEL, May 23.—A Panamanian cargo ship entered Eilat harbour at dawn today in spite of the United Arab Republic's announcement that it was closing the Gulf of Aqaba. The ship, identified as the 3,500-ton Amalia, crossed the Tiran Strait at the mouth of the Gulf after dusk last night.—*Reuter.*



Demonstrators in Cairo raise banners in support of President Nasser's action against Israel yesterday.



Cairo wants to halt oil from Iran

From PETER HOPKIRK, Cairo, May 23

As U Thant, the United Nations Secretary-General, flew to Cairo tonight in a desperate bid to prevent a Middle East war, the barren entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba became the new flashpoint for a possible Egyptian-Israel conflagration.

At the moment, I understand, Egypt merely plans to halt foreign vessels entering the Strait of Tiran while they are searched for strategic materials, as she did between 1948 and 1956. These would be removed before the ship was allowed to proceed into the gulf.

This is aimed particularly at severing supplies of Iranian oil which have been entering Israel by this way since 1964.

The real danger of war would arise only if a vessel—foreign or Israel—were to try to force the Strait of Tiran, which is now firmly controlled by Egyptian Navy, Air Force, and ground forces.

Hostilities would certainly break out if Israel forces attacked or provoked the Egyptian forces blocking the strait at Sharm el Sheikh, until this week occupied by the small Yugoslav contingent of the United Nations Emergency Force.

Territorial waters claim

Egypt points out that the narrow navigation channel is only two miles from the Egyptian shoreline and therefore inside her territorial waters. As she is technically still at war with Israel, to prevent strategic supplies from reaching Israel through Egyptian waters is only reasonable.

Reports from the area, in spite of heavy security measures, suggest that Egypt is in a position to bring a massive force to bear.

Highly-placed Egyptian sources tell me that they believe there is now a very serious possibility of hostilities. They feel that the balance of power between Israel and the surrounding Arab countries has changed considerably since 1956, when they were stabbed in the back by the British and French landings when fighting off the Israel attack.

They are confident, also, that they now have the support of Russia if forced into a war with Israel, which would deter the Americans.

In spite of the closeness of war, Cairo remains astonishingly quiet, with tourists still busy doing the sights, and most apparently unaware of the crisis. The staff of the British mission are considering plans for the evacuation of the 150 or more British families

Poor prospects for U Thant's talks

Few observers here feel that U Thant will get much satisfaction from his talks with President Nasser beyond assurances that Egypt will not be the first to attack. It is felt that Egypt is in a very strong position now, with nothing to lose and possibly much to gain. If President Nasser gives anything away, it will only be in exchange for considerable concessions.

King Faisal backs Arab cause

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, whose visit to Britain ends tomorrow, gave a press conference yesterday at his hotel in London, which was notable for its dignified calm and restraint.

One thing was obvious. King Faisal was not going to give his opponents the smallest pretext for accusing him of hesitation in supporting the Arab cause.

The attitude of Saudi Arabia, he said, was always to be in the vanguard of her brother Arab states in combating Israel. "We have agreed with all Arab countries that we will participate in facing this danger and we have ordered our armed forces to be on the alert."

The weekly article by Kyril Tidmarsh has been held over because of our special coverage of the Middle East situation.

Move for Security Council meeting

FROM OUR UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENT
—New York, May 23

The Security Council will meet tomorrow morning to debate the crisis in the Middle East, it was announced tonight. The request for the meeting came from Canada and Denmark, with full support from the United States and Britain.

In the absence of U Thant, the Secretary-General, who is now conferring in Cairo with President Nasser and others, Dr. Ralph Bunche, his under-secretary for political affairs, is keeping in close touch with leading delegates, including representatives of the "big five".

In Cairo, in addition to his talks with President Nasser (about which nothing is yet known here) the Secretary-General has been conferring with Major-General Rikhye (India), the commander of Unef, General Odd Bull (Norway), the Chief of Staff of the truce supervision organization (Untso) in Palestine, and Mr. Laurence Michelmore, the head of the United Nations Works and Relief Agency (Unwra) which looks after more than 100,000 Arab refugees.

Armed refugees

At this headquarters, questions are being asked as to how many of these refugees, while still drawing relief from the United Nations, are now enrolled in the so-called Palestine Liberation Organization (P.L.O.) headed by Mr. Ahmad Shukairy. It is believed that some thousands of refugees have been armed and trained for guerrilla war by the P.L.O. at the same time as they are on the ration strength of Unwra.

In some western quarters the hope is still shared that U Thant may be able to prevail upon President Nasser to agree to an extension of the Untso system of observers to cover the frontier between Egypt and Israel. Untso has not exactly been effective along Israel's other borders, especially not along that with Syria, but it is better than nothing. U.A.R. sources here, while they will not speak for the record, discount this idea as useless.

Today Mr. El Kony, the permanent representative of the United Arab Republic, was to have spoken in the General Assembly during the closing stages of its debate on peacekeeping operations. At the last minute, however, he withdrew his name from the speakers' list without giving any reason. Any hope of a definitive statement on Egyptian policy in this crisis was thus lost.

Ostrich tactics

In the meantime the General Assembly, pursuing its ostrich-like tactics in these tense days, went on to conclude its debate and adopt by a large majority the report of its special committee of 33 on peacekeeping operations.

Not that this signifies much, except a deliberate effort to postpone any substantive action in the face of continuing differences among the big powers and others.

The gist of the resolution adopted today is a request to the special committee of 33 to continue its review of the whole question.

Mr Heath says UN must patrol border

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

While Mr. Wilson was presiding yesterday afternoon over a long meeting of the Cabinet at 10 Downing Street, Mr. Heath was calling on the Government to demand an immediate meeting of the Security Council to deal with the Middle East crisis.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home supported the call in a speech at Beckenham last night, when he described the situation as "very dangerous" and said that the necessary steps in the Security Council to restore order and peace should be taken at once.

Speaking in Hastings, Mr. Heath said the whole of the Middle East was in turmoil. The British Government must give a clear lead and must try to get an effective United Nations presence reestablished along the frontier between Israel and Egypt. He continued:—

Yemen war

"The United Nations seems to have agreed without discussion or protest to the United Arab Republic's demand that the emergency peacekeeping force should be withdrawn. The result can already be seen in the Gulf of Aqaba and the Middle East has been brought close to another war.

"The U.A.R. request should never was calling on the Government to demand an immediate meeting of the Security Council to deal with the Middle East crisis.

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Yemen war

"The United Nations seems to have agreed without discussion or protest to the United Arab Republic's demand that the emergency peacekeeping force should be withdrawn. The result can

"If ever there was a case for United Nations troops patrolling the frontier to prevent minor incidents building up in the war, this is it. Indeed, the peacekeeping force could be extended to the other frontiers between Israel and Arab countries. This is precisely the kind of situation the United Nations was created to handle.

"What is more, the United Nations should make a further determined effort to end the war in the Yemen. It should also arrange for the demarcation of the boundary line between the Yemen and the Federation of South Arabia, to remove the source of friction there, when South Arabia receives its independence.

"The genuine threats to peace in the Middle East are the direct concern of the U.N. Now the British Government must act quickly in demanding an immediate meeting of the Security Council."

US secret briefing

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT—Washington, May 23

Mr. Dean Rusk, the United States Secretary of State, said today that the Middle East crisis was "very touchy".

Speaking to reporters after briefing the Senate foreign relations committee in secret session, he said that the question of making a choice between military action there and in Vietnam had not been raised.

Senator Stuart Symington (Democrat, Missouri) had it otherwise. He said that he had asked Mr. Rusk if the United States could defend both South Vietnam and Israel, but left it to the Secretary to reply.

1950 declaration

The senator also said that the Middle East was more important than the Far East to American national security.

"I'm not reassured that the United States can police the free world with as little help as we are getting from our allies."

Senator Mike Mansfield, the majority leader who was also at the briefing, said:

"Unless the fires are dampened, they can quickly spread and engulf the world." Britain and France should be encouraged in their peace efforts.

Presumably he was referring to the 1950 declaration which the three countries signed, but the Administration has been informed that Britain no longer regards it as an appropriate instrument for intervention. The British position as represented here is that the declaration was intended to maintain a balance, long since upset, and not as a rescue operation.

Mr. Robert McCloskey, the State Department spokesman, confirmed that the principles of the declaration remained the basis for United States policy in the area.

The United States was in touch with countries in and outside the area, including the Soviet Union. He denied that the evacuation of American citizens had been ordered, and refused to comment on the movements of the Sixth Fleet.

The roles of the fleet, which comprises some 50 ships, including aircraft carriers, have been specified by the Navy Department. They include the show of force, covering the evacuation of non-combatants or friendly forces, defence of American and friendly shipping, support of airborne and amphibious assaults, and the support of land forces.

The question raised by Senator Symington can be easily answered in the affirmative. Apart from the Sixth Fleet, there are more than 200,000 troops in Europe, and it will be recalled that some were used in the 1958 Lebanese landings. There are also five reserve divisions in the United States.

Nevertheless, both the Administration and Congress are beginning to feel rather pressed.







In Tel Aviv yesterday tourists (left) queued to book flights home: in Israel, the Prime Minister, Mr. Eshkol (centre) addressed the Knesset on the crisis: flashback (right) to 1956—Egyptian guns over the Strait of Tiran were spiked by Israeli troops, who later handed the positions over to United Nations forces.

Egypt Blockade: Tankers May Bring Showdown.
From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME, Defence Correspondent

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, May 24, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56949.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS167996600

Israel: UK firms stand fast

The Government's warning to all British subjects to leave Israel and Egypt unless they have essential obligations affects about 8,000 people. One British firm with essential commitments whose expatriates are standing their ground is Barclays D.C.O. Other companies who intend to sit tight and weather the storm include Leyland, who have an assembly plant in Israel, de Beers, with phosphates from the Dead Sea and diamonds, Metal Box and I.C.I.

The next P. & O. ship through Suez, the Himalaya, carrying 1,400 passengers, is expected on Thursday night and is to travel as usual. The British Chamber of Commerce said yesterday afternoon that ships were still passing through the Suez Canal and they had not heard of any diversions. P. & O. said all their ships were on schedule and none being rerouted.

But nearly all shipping lines are thought to be introducing the Cape route as an alternative in their contracts. In the last Suez crisis a 20 per cent surcharge was imposed in some cases to meet the extra cost of going round the Cape. The Institute of London Underwriters has the position under constant review and can call a meeting at half an hour's notice.

Britain exported nearly £52m. to Israel in 1966 and diamonds accounted for more than £28m. of this. Agricultural and citrus products accounted for £8,400,000 of the £13,800,000 import bill last year and the winter season is over with the next crop not due for harvesting till September. Marks and Spencer, who have substantial imports from Israel, plan to watch and wait. S and S Services, one of the biggest Jaffa orange and fruit juice importers, have sufficient stocks already landed to tide them over the rest of the summer.

British insurance companies have interests amounting to many millions of pounds in Israel. The companies involved there include the Norwich Union, Phoenix, Eagle Star, Royal, Guardian and Commercial Union. One estimate is that the British insurance interest in the country could amount to as much as £50m.

B.O.A.C. said yesterday it had no plans yet to lay on extra services from Israel to meet the evacuation problem. It has three flights a week, each carrying about 135 passengers.

Heavy market demand for gold

Mounting tension hit the London bullion market yesterday. Demand was very heavy; some dealers said it was at record levels.

Much of the interest was in the smaller gold bars. These are the kind which appeal to shaikhs, traders and jewellers. Middle East buyers—who tend to hoard in times of crisis—often deal through Continental banks, chiefly Swiss ones.

The market emphasized, however, that the demand was worldwide, stimulated by worsening political climates in other parts, from Hongkong to Gibraltar.

At the London fixing the gold price was ¼d. higher at 251s. 9d. per fine ounce on a dollar parity of $35.19⅛, up ½c. on Monday. Requirements were fully met by the authorities. The closing range was $35.19 to $35.21.

Great activity in the gold market, which continued throughout the day, perhaps distracted attention from silver, although the change in the United States Treasury's selling policy for silver is thought to have accounted for a little of the demand.

Silver was fixed at 133¼d. spot a fine ounce and 135d. forward. Demand was not on a large scale, but prices were raised 3¼d. and 3d. respectively because of the lack of supplies on offer.

The market was still quietly cautious. While in the short term the price may edge up, the feeling in the market is that eventually prices will ease, possibly to around 115d.

The United States official stock of free silver dropped by almost 19m. ounces on May 18, the day the Treasury stopped sales of silver for export, it was disclosed in Washington yesterday. The stock figure as at that date was 58.8m. ounces. On May 1 it was 86.7m.

Israel: UK firms stand fast.
The Times (London, England),Wednesday, May 24, 1967; pg. 19; Issue 56949.

Category: Business and Finance

Gale Document Number:CS319515832

ANGLO-US AGREEMENT ON AQABA GULF

Military action to enforce reopening not excluded

Britain and the United States agreed yesterday that the Gulf of Aqaba must be reopened to international shipping. Military action has not been excluded. The United States Sixth Fleet has taken up positions in the eastern Mediterranean in support of diplomatic efforts to reopen the gulf.

Egypt announced that a blockade of the gulf had begun, mines had been laid, and air and naval forces were on the look-out, with shore batteries in position. Israel denounced the move as a flagrant violation of the law of the sea and sent Mr. Abba Eban, the Foreign Minister, to Europe in search of support.

At the Security Council meeting on the Middle East crisis, Russia demanded that the United States and British Fleets get out of the Mediterranean. Only minutes earlier, the United States had announced willingness to join with Russia, Britain, and France in a common effort to restore and maintain peace.

The Jordan Government stated in Amman that permission had been given for Saudi Arabian and Iraq forces to enter the country for the defence of the nation. One report said that Saudi troops entered Jordan last night.



Mr. Fedorenko, Soviet Ambassador to the United Nations, speaking at the emergency meeting of the Security Council yesterday.



U Thant, United Nations Secretary-General, and President Nasser, during talks in Cairo yesterday.

Navy to stay in trouble area

BY OUR NAVAL CORRESPONDENT

The " holding over " of the aircraft carrier Victorious, and the frigate Rhyl in the Mediterranean brings an additional 3,000 men to an area which in the unified Middle East command has 1,250 men of the Royal Navy, 12,200 Army, and 7,400 of the R.A.F.

H.M.S. Victorious (30,530 tons), commanded by Captain Ian McIntosh, a former submariner, was due at Portsmouth on June 1 after 10 months in the Far East. H.M.S. Rhyl (2,200 tons) was due at Portsmouth today. Other ships of the Mediterranean fleet consist of two anti-submarine frigates, the Whitby and Duncan, six coastal minesweepers and a submarine.

The Navy Department of the Ministry of Defence draws a distinction between being " held over " and elerted. If a ship was to be sent from home water it would probably be the commando ship Albion now exercising off Northern Ireland with 41 Commando embarked but there is no plan to send her yet.

Head of the Middle East Unified command is Admiral Sir Michael Le Fanu and the Mediterranean C-in-C is Admiral Sir John Hamilton who leaves this post next month.

Johnson warning to Egypt

FROM PETER HOPKIRK

CAIRO, MAY 24

President Johnson has privately warned President Nasser that he regards the closing of the Gulf of Aqaba to Israel shipping as an act of aggression. It was learnt from highly reliable sources tonight that if United Nations and all other peaceful attempts to ensure free passage of shipping through the gulf fail, the possibility of using force is not ruled out.

As U Thant began three days of urgent talks with Egyptian officials today, the Ministry of the Interior was telling people what to do in the event of air raids.

Cairo was suddenly plunged into darkness tonight for an air raid practice which lasted 15 minutes.

British families living in Egypt have been officially advised to leave the country.

Pilots needed for Jordan port

From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME, Defence Correspondent

TEL AVIV, MAY 24

The Israel Government held back today from any direct action to free the Strait of Tiran while the situation was taken up by the great powers. There was no official reaction to Cairo reports that the strait was mined, thus preventing the passage of Israel shipping to and from Eilat.

Unless pilots are provided through the Egyptian minefield, ships will also be prevented from reaching the Jordan port of Aqaba, which normally has at least one sailing a day.

Intervention of the great powers in the dispute has not meant any relaxation in Tel Aviv, where it is clear that Israel still reserves the right to take independent action in the event of international talks being inconclusive.

SIXTH FLEET READY IN MEDITERRANEAN

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT—Washington, May 24

Britain and the United States agreed today that the Gulf of Aqaba must be reopened to international shipping. Military action has not been excluded.

This emerged after the first round of talks here today between Mr. George Thomson, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, and Mr. Dean Rusk, Secretary of State, and other American officials.

It was emphasized that both countries sought a diplomatic solution, and that sterner action would be taken only as a last resort.

British officials said that Mr. Thomson was eager to promote international action, in or outside the United Nations. It was not clear that the French four-power proposal had been discussed.

Today's talks were described as preliminary in that methods to be used would have to be more widely discussed. However, agreement was said to have been reached on general policy objectives.

Off Suez canal

Units of the United States Sixth Fleet have taken up position in the eastern Mediterranean in a manoeuvre intended to support American diplomatic efforts to reopen the Gulf of Aqaba to international shipping.

An undisclosed number of ships were said to be off the Suez canal area, hull-down over the horizon. The fleet comprises some 50 ships, including two attack aircraft carriers, America and Saratoga.

By coincidence, a third carrier, Intrepid, is passing through the Mediterranean bound for Vietnam. There were no indications today if and when she might pass through the canal.

But there was a suggestion that a British ship might be the first to attempt a passage through the Strait of Tiran to the Israel port of Eilat. To show the Red Ensign would appear to be unnecessarily provocative, but about half the ships trading in the Gulf of Aqaba are said to be British, and the idea has found some favour here and in the United Nations

Round of talks

The discreet movements of one of the world's most powerful fleets provided a dramatic backcloth for the visit here today of Mr. Thomson. He arrived on board an R.A.F. Comet and lost no time in going to the British Embassy for preliminary consultations with the Ambassador, Sir Patrick Dean, and then on to the State Department.

He spent most of the day there in a round of conferences with Mr. Rusk, and Mr. Eugene Rostow, the Under Secretary of State for political affairs, who is in charge at this stage.

For all this naval and diplomatic activity and talk of showing the Red Duster, restraint, patience and caution were the words heard most at the Department and in the White House. They have also peppered official communications to Israel, because neither Britain nor the United States is ready for an early showdown.

Nevertheless, the closing of the Strait of Tiran is a matter of acute concern for both Governments. Their marginal differences over the validity of the 1950 Tripartite Declaration were said to be of no account, because they were determined to keep the strait open.

Anglo-American action outside the United Nations was considered possible.

Joint escort plan

Mr. Thomson was said to favour joint action by the maritime powers, if necessary. Ideally ships bound for Eilat should be convoyed by their naval vessels, but this was thought to be impractical and some form of joint naval escort was ready for consideration.

If this should revive unhappy memories of the Suez Canal Users Association, it was emphasized that the United States had no specific proposal to make. Britain was also said to be anxious to avoid a show of force if possible, and would look very hard at any proposal.

Earlier this week some rather tough talk was heard at the State Department, but this has been toned down considerably since Congress expressed opposition to another lonely American adventure. The first American diplomatic objective when Mr. Thomson went to the Department today was to ensure British cooperation.

The United States Navy is also wary of exposing its ships to mines and land and air attack in narrow waters. In any event, it was recognized that there were few American and British warships south of the Canal.

Both Governments, of course, are painfully aware of Soviet support for the Arabs. No official here believes that Moscow is seeking a military confrontation, but this does not permit the United States or Britain to pursue a course that could bring one about.

Mr. Wilson on right to use Strait of Tiran Page 8

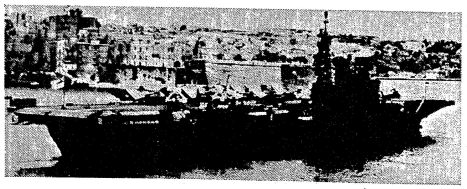
World efforts to prevent war Page 8

Mr. Brown in Moscow Page 5

Leading article Page 9

TUC calls for a withdrawal

A resolution by the T.U.C. general council yesterday appealed to those concerned in the Middle East crisis to avoid actions which might lead to a further deterioration. They urged the governments involved to withdraw their armer forces.



H.M.S. Victorious entering Grand Harbour, Malta, yesterday to take on stores and fuel. The aircraft carrier on her way home from the Far East, has been " temporarily held over."

U THANT CUTS HIS VISIT SHORT

Displeasure at UN meeting

By GARVEN HUDGINS, Cairo, May 24

U Thant, the United Nations Secretary-General, was reported to be highly disturbed at the convening in his absence of a United Nations Security Council session in New York on the Middle East crisis. He is reported to have commented that it would have been better to have waited for his return from his present critical visit to Cairo.

His displeasure was reported as he held his first talks with President Nasser to discuss a peace formula based on creation of a reconstructed Egyptian-Israel mixed armistice commission in an eleventh-hour effort to head off war in the Middle East.

The armistice commission envisaged by U Thant, it is learnt, would be under United Nations supervision and would be similar to the one which was dissolved in 1956 after Israel's refusal to take part.

Returning early

Egyptian sources said Egypt would be willing to endorse establishment of such a mixed commission. There appeared to be no chance, however, that President Nasser would go back on his critical decision to bar the Aqaba Gulf to Israel shipping.

As U Thant and President Nasser talked, Egyptian sources indicated that Egypt's first reaction to President de Gaulle's suggestion for concerted efforts by France, the United States, Britain and Russia to resolve the Middle East crisis was " not unfavourable ".—*Associated Press.*

NEW YORK, MAY 24.—U Thant has decided to cut short his visit to Cairo and will return to New York on Thursday instead of Friday, it was announced here.—*Agence France Presse.*

No resolution by Security Council

FROM OUR UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, MAY 24

Canada and Denmark took the initiative in the Security Council today with a moderately worded " holding " resolution designed to prevent the Middle East pot from boiling over.

However, after a day-long, fruitless debate, it became obvious that the objections to the motion posed by the United Arab Republic were shared by all four African and Asian members of the council, and also by the two communist members.

The upshot was that the council adjourned indefinitely without passing any resolution, and the chances are that it will not act again until after U Thant, the Secretary-General, gets back from his mission to Cairo.

Speaking for the United States, Mr. Arthur Goldberg said he was authorized to announce that the United States, both within and outside the United Nations, " is prepared to join with all the other great powers—the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and France—in a common effort to restore and maintain peace in the Near East."

Russian demand

The joint Canadian-Danish motion expresses the council's full support for the efforts of U Thant to pacify the situation; requests all states to refrain from any action which might make matters worse; and invites the Secretary-General to report to the council on the results of his present mission to Cairo, so that it can resume its consideration of the question.

Lord Caradon pledged the wholehearted support of Britain for U Thant's mission and his efforts to reduce tension.

NEW YORK, May 24.—During the debate Dr. Nikolai Fedorenko, of Russia, demanded that the United States and British Fleets get out of the Mediterranean, where they were now " one of the most serious sources of Middle East tension ".

The Egyptian delegate alleged that the Canadian-Danish resolution was an attempt to " sabotage " U Thant's mission.—*Reuter.*

UN must return, Mr Heath says

Mr. Heath speaking at Dorking, Surrey, last night said that the United Nations peace-keeping force should never have been withdrawn from the Egypt-Israel border without reference to the Security Council or, if necessary, the General Assembly.

Everything possible must be done to get the force back. He hoped that Israel would cooperate and even let it over her own frontiers.

NUR ' black ' new freight depot

The National Union of Railwaymen have declared the new Continental freight terminal at Stratford, E., " black " because they object to a new system under which private forwarding agents will lease part of the terminal and employ their own staff.

British Railways have sent letters to more than 245 employees asking them to report for duty at the terminal on June 19

Business News reports, page 22.

Chilean Navy's mistake

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, MAY 24

The Chilean Navy has admitted a " regrettable error " in reporting an unidentified submarine off the north coast last week. It turned out to be a school of fish. The original report said that two destroyers attacked an unidentified submarine with depth charges after it had failed to identify itself.

US officer defects to Cuba

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, MAY 24

A United States Army major with high security clearance has gone to Cuba " for reasons of conscience ", Havana radio said today.

The officer, Major Richard Harwood Pearce, took off from Key West, Florida, on Sunday in a light aircraft bought a week ago, and American ships and aircraft had been searching for him and for his four-year-old son for three days.

Airport officials, whom he told he was going for an hour's sightseeing over the Keys, noted that the time that he " seemed to be under some kind of strain ".

Major Pearce was recently divorced. At Houston, Texas, his



Major R. H. Pearce.

former wife said he took the boy away on Friday for a week's holiday.

Aged 36, and decorated three times for valour in Vietnam, the major was senior staff assistant to Lieutenant-General Thomas Dunn, commanding officer of the Fourth Army. According to an Army spokesman, he had access to top-secret material, and signed out on May 12 on 13 days' leave.

Letter published

The Cuban official newspaper *Granma* has published over his signature a letter saying: " I have decided to part from my country in the company of my 4½-year-old son, for reasons of conscience, and request Cuban authorities to grant us asylum or authorization to proceed to another country of my choice." An official communique says the Government will grant him either asylum or *laisser-passer*, whichever he prefers.

The State Department says the American Government was finally informed last night. According to the Pentagon an inventory of all classified documents to which Major Pearce had access has shown that none is missing.

Surgeon removed wrong leg

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A surgeon amputated the wrong leg of a woman of 76 at East Birmingham Hospital at the end of last month. The error was realized immediately and the affected leg was then amputated.

Mr. J. R. Elliott, secretary of the hospital group, said yesterday that the woman was still in the hospital and was " doing very well ". They were planning for her discharge.

There was a system of safeguards and checks which was followed carefully in the hospital and there was no evidence that the system was at fault. Nevertheless, theatre procedures throughout the four main hospitals in the group were being carefully reviewed.

Anglo-U S Agreement On Aqaba Gulf.
FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT\s\Washington, May 24

The Times (London, England),Thursday, May 25, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56950.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001657

U THANT CUTS HIS VISIT SHORT

Displeasure at UN meeting

By GARVEN HUDGINS, Cairo, May 24

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U Thant Cuts His Visit Short.
By GARVEN HUDGINS, Cairo, May 24

The Times (London, England),Thursday, May 25, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56950.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17132729

OPPOSITION TO "RULE BY SULTANS" IN FEDERATION

FLOSY REJECTS DISCUSSIONS ON ADEN

From MICHAEL WOLFERS, Aden, May 24

Sir Humphrey Trevelyan, the High Commissioner to Aden and South Arabia, made it clear when he arrived here that he would discuss the future government of the Federation with representatives of any party who would come to him. But the representatives of the two groups responsible for most of the unrest, and probably the violence, in Aden are unlikely to take up the invitation.

I canvassed the views of these groups, the Front for the Liberation of South Yemen (Flosy), whose leadership is largely living in exile, and the banned National Liberation Front (N.L.F.).

Ali Abdul Rahman al-Aswadi a Flosy supporter, is also acting president of the Aden Trades Union Congress, which, he said today, was an independent body that had found that Flosy's aims for South Arabia matched its own political aims.

A.T.U.C. has for more than 10 years pursued a policy which includes free elections. The main objection made by both nationalist groups is that the Federal Government is formed of appointed, and hereditary rulers. Their role had never been put to the test of popular will.

"We would accept the sultans if the people voted for them in elections", said Aswadi, "but if the British continue to impose unpopular rule, even in the independent Federation, the nationalist fight goes on."

Violence, he said, was begun only when negotiations had failed to bring any change in British policy. Flosy would not enter into talks with Sir Humphrey because Britain had shown no intention of implementing the United Nations resolution on South Arabia.

This called for elections throughout the Federation on the basis of adult suffrage; the return of political exiles; release of political detainees; and withdrawal of the British base. The British view is that elections will be the responsibility of the caretaker government at independence.

Spate of robberies

Asked what political advantage could be gained by attacks on British troops who were to be withdrawn any way, Aswadi said: "Whether it will help or not it is a matter of dignity for Flosy to keep up action against British troops while the British Government support reactionary rule."

Flosy would also refuse to join in talks with the N.L.F., which was a party which had no existence. He said the N.L.F. breakaway from Flosy was a result of personal ambitions not of political differences.

The N.L.F., who claim to have pioneered the "arms struggle", broke away in December when the leaders decided that Flosy did not represent a national unity.

One of the N.L.F.'s 14-man executive told me at a clandestine meeting here that since then the N.L.F. has not looked to Egypt for money for arms but had drawn on "voluntary subscriptions" from supporters. He conceded that the recent spate of robberies, including a £53,000 raid on a local branch of National and Grindlays Bank, might also have helped, but he said that for work in the national interest it was permissible to take money from public institutions. N.L.F. would not take money from poor shopkeepers.

The N.L.F. leader denied that there had been a running battle in recent months between Flosy and N.L.F. supporters. "We have never worked to fight Flosy, but we think that Flosy does not want other groups to work in the area." When N.L.F. men had killed Flosy rivals it had been in self-defence, he said.

Police estimates show that in the past three months about 20 Flosy men, seven N.L.F. supporters, and 18 other men, including three from the South Arabian League, have been killed. The N.L.F. leader said that talks now being held in Cairo might lead to agreement between the "revolutionary forces".

'A mere show'

Asked if N.L.F. would take up Sir Humphrey's invitation to political representatives, he said: "We are prepared to negotiate only if the British honestly and truthfully carry out the United Nations resolution. We are not prepared to join in discussions with the sultans if they are a mere show."

He felt that if Britain did leave Aden in favour of the Federal Ministers alone, nothing would have been gained by the nationalist or revolutionary struggle which would continue against the new administration. As there would be delay in holding elections he thought Britain should negotiate with the revolutionary forces.

One difficulty is that these two groups, by resorting to violence as a political weapon, have almost completely closed the doors to the political conference chamber.

An Adeni about to throw a grenade was shot dead today by a British serviceman on patrol in the Crater district. In another incident a local man was robbed at gunpoint of £600.

Flosy Rejects Discussions On Aden.
From MICHAEL WOLFERS, Aden, May 24

The Times (London, England),Thursday, May 25, 1967; pg. 3; Issue 56950.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS51866809

Middle East Crisis

Mr Wilson insists on right to use Strait of Tiran

By DAVID WOOD, Political Correspondent

After describing British diplomatic efforts to save the peace in the Middle East, Mr. Wilson yesterday delivered a warning that the Government will assert the right of all British shipping to use the Strait of Tiran as an international waterway. He added that Britain "is prepared to join with others to secure general recognition of this right".

Mr. Wilson made the statement yesterday morning when he paid a hurried visit by helicopter to the annual conference of the Electrical Trades Union in Margate. Last night it became the basis of assurances he gave at Downing Street not only to Mr. Heath and Sir Alec Douglas-Home, who had asked earlier in the day for an urgent consultation on the growing crisis, but to Mr. Abba Eban, the Israel Foreign Minister.

Mr. Eban, who was on his way through London to Washington last night, had called earlier in Paris and had a half-hour consultation with President de Gaulle. Mr. Wilson was therefore able to learn at first hand the Israel Government's reactions to the serious Egyptian threat in the Gulf of Aqaba and President de Gaulle's attitude to the emergency.

Cabinet meeting

Mr. Wilson explained to Mr. Heath and Sir Alec Douglas-Home his contingency plans for the recall of Parliament. For the present, Mr. Wilson does not regard a recall of M.P.s before next Wednesday, the day fixed for reassembly, as necessary.

Indeed, he continues to assume that he will be leaving London as planned for his visit to Expo '67 in Canada and then to Washington next Monday. All standing arrangements would, however, be immediately altered if war broke out between Egypt and Israel.

Mr. Heath agreed with Mr. Wilson last night that the recall of Parliament would be necessary if hostilities began, and he added that if British naval forces had to be used to protect British shipping it would be appropriate for Parliament to be brought back immediately.

Mr. Wilson is ready to adapt himself to a changing situation. A Cabinet meeting to be called for this morning at 10 Downing Street will in theory be occupied with arrangements for the parliamentary resumption.

This routine business will inevitably be eclipsed, however, by the consideration of reports on the latest Middle East developments, and reports from Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, who is in Moscow, and from Lord Caradon, the Minister of State at the United Nations.

Crucial passage

Mr. George Thomson, the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who on Tuesday was sent on an urgent Government mission to Washington and New York, may be back in London in time to attend the Cabinet meeting.

When he spoke at Margate on the status of the Strait of Tiran as an international waterway "through which the vessels of all nations have a right of passage", Mr. Wilson carefully based himself on the bipartisan wording of a statement made by Sir Allan Noble as British delegate of the Conservative administration to the General Assembly on March 1, 1957.

He quoted the crucial passage: "Her Majesty's Government will assert this right on behalf of all British shipping, and is prepared to join with others to secure general recognition of this right."

Mr. Wilson then added: "His words were echoed by other delegates representing substantial maritime nations. The declaration then made remains the view and the policy of her Majesty's Government and we shall promote and support international action to uphold this right of free passage.

"To this end Mr. George Thomson, the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, flew last night to Washington to discuss with representatives of the United States Government, and subsequently he will fly to New York to assist Lord Caradon with similar discussions with the United Nations, the practical steps that now need to be taken."

It is significant that Mr. Wilson revised his speech, including this phraseology, early yesterday after he had heard the first unconfirmed reports that the Egyptians might have mined the Strait.

In Government circles, the phrase "international action" is explained as meaning more than action that might be initiated by the United Nations. In effect, it draws a distinction between the United Nations and the group of main maritime nations, and therefore to some extent provides for the possibility of a Soviet veto in the Security Council.

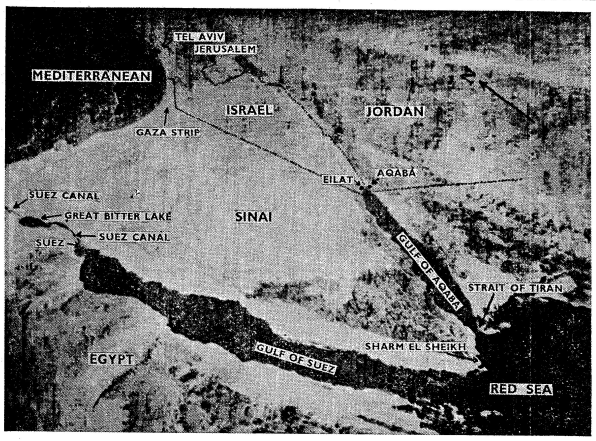
1950 Declaration

In the Government's opinion, Mr. Thorpe, the Liberal leader, was well behind events when he sent a telegram yesterday to Mr. Wilson urging the Government "to make clear that they intend to honour the Tripartite Declaration of 1950".

Mr. Thorpe stated: "The declared threat to the existence of Israel must be resisted by Britain unless we are to repeat the pre-war betrayal of Czechoslovakia. The Egyptian attempt to interfere with shipping in the Gulf of Aqaba cannot be tolerated. Urge that action should be taken if possible through the United Nations, but that in any case no doubts should exist about Britain's determination to prevent aggression."

Mr. Wilson and senior Ministers, in harmony with the French Government, consider the Tripartite Declaration no longer applicable. On May 25, 1950, Britain, France, and the United States jointly declared that they would act, within and outside the United Nations, if any Middle East states violated frontiers or armistice lines, and they also agreed on the prevention of an arms race in the Middle East.

Since then the Middle East situation has completely changed, and both Conservative and Labour administrations have recognized that the three signatories no longer have the exclusive power to influence events in the Middle East, nor the monopoly of arms supply. In the past year or two both Mr. Wilson and Mr. Brown have adopted Mr. Harold Macmillan's revised statement on the new position.



A remarkable photograph of the Middle East area taken recently by a United States satellite in orbit.



Mr. Heath and Sir Alec Douglas-Home arriving at 10 Downing Street yesterday for their meeting with the Prime Minister.

Appeal to Moscow to use influence

From KYRIL TIDMARSH, Moscow, May 24

Mr. George Brown, the British Foreign Secretary, today appealed to Russia for "restraint and creative imagination" in discharging its responsibilities for the maintenance of peace in the Middle East.

No official statement has been made from either side about the subject of his one and a half hour conference with Mr. Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, and his hour's talk with Mr. Kosygin, a serious looking Prime Minister this morning.

An interpolation in a prepared lecture to an invited Russian audience this afternoon, however, suggested that a few hours before the meeting of the Security Council Mr. Brown was counselling the Soviet leaders to use their influence in the Middle East crisis rather than continue "to watch developments closely", as the Soviet Government's statement declared this morning.

Mr. Brown's purpose appears to be to seek Russian cooperation in securing an undertaking to refrain from the use of force, and to influence the two sides to stop the build up of forces confronting each other.

U.N. presence

There was a strong emphasis on the United Nations in his public address. "We think that one of the ways in which the situation could be restored", he said, "would be by the establishment of some United Nations presence in the area, and we hope that the Soviet Union will agree with us in working for this."

The Russians appear to be listening with interest to all this but, judging by unofficial reactions, while they are interested in the avoidance of a full-scale confrontation there is no reason why they should be any less strongly opposed to United Nations peace-keeping forces.

On the other hand, a role by the four powers to secure the same ends might be more acceptable here. It would certainly be consistent with the Soviet view that peace-keeping should be the main responsibility of the big powers.

Mr. Brown introduced himself to the audience as a social democrat, trade unionist, man of good will, and a Christian, a combination unlikely to recommend itself particularly to a Soviet audience.

On Vietnam he said that if there were the same readiness in Hanoi as in Washington to talk constructively then "I am sure that there would be little difficulty in finding a way to start negotiations".

The chairman of the meeting said that a Soviet audience felt that it was up to Washington and not to Hanoi to display this readiness.

French call for four-power move

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT—Paris, May 24

The French Government, which has been publicly silent about the Middle East crisis until now, emerged from its reserve today and proposed that the four great powers—the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, and France—should concert their efforts in the interests of peace.

A statement read out at the end of this morning's meeting of the Council of Ministers by M. Georges Gorse, Minister of Information, spoke of the Government's preoccupation at the latest developments, "particularly as regards the problem of navigation in the Gulf of Aqaba", and its intention of continuing its efforts to dissuade the countries concerned from all action likely to endanger peace.

France has found itself in a particularly difficult position in the present crisis because of its policy of maintaining good relations with both parties. It has been closely associated with Israel since the beginning, and it has had considerable success in recent years in developing contacts with the Arab countries, which had reached rock bottom during the Algerian war.

French policy, therefore, is to do all that is possible to prevent any outbreak of hostilities. French diplomatists have received instructions to do what they can to calm the atmosphere in the capitals concerned.

Diplomatic exchanges

At the same time there is every intention of avoiding any temptation to take sides, and M. Gorse was cautious in his statements today about the question of shipping passing through the Straits of Tiran. From the point of view of international law, he said, navigation should be free for ships engaged in trade, as it was in the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea.

But this thesis was contested by the Egyptians, on the grounds that there was still a state of war, and they had never committed themselves to more than the presence of United Nations troops, with the proviso that these troops would be withdrawn at the Egyptians' request.

The ban on shipping was in fact in force before the United Nations troops arrived, after an agreement had been reached between the Egyptian Government and the Secretary-General. The Egyptian Government had not committed itself to the principle of the freedom of navigation.

On cooperation between the four great powers, as proposed by Paris, M. Gorse said that the French Government was not suggesting any precise formula. It was intended that the French initiative should lead either to an intensification of diplomatic exchanges or to the calling of a conference, at a level to be decided.

He said that France did not refuse to associate itself with any procedures within the framework of the United Nations, but that it was "self-evident" that the Security Council would agree on concrete measures only if the four powers had reached agreement between themselves. This was why France had shown less enthusiasm than other countries for bringing the issue before the Security Council.

M. Gorse said in answer to a question that France did not regard the tripartite agreement of 1950—signed by France, Britain, and the United States—as being relevant to the situation today. Problems of this sort could not be settled by the three countries on their own.

Mr. Abba Eban, the Israel Foreign Minister, had a meeting with President de Gaulle today and later left for London.

Ian Trethowan's weekly article appears on page 3.

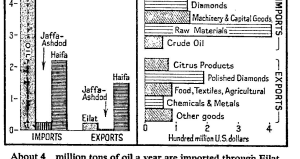
Jordan proclaims 'state of war'

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

AMMAN, MAY 24

Jordan has declared a "state of war and ordered reservists for mobilization. Army units have been dispatched in armoured lorries to take up positions on the border while the Council of Ministers continues in session "discussing the situation in the Middle East and all military and political probabilities".

Civil servants, including doctors and civil defence officials on leave, have been recalled to duty and a test air raid alarm will be staged for one hour both tomorrow morning and evening.



About 4 million tons of oil a year are imported through Eilat. Diagram shows Israeli imports and exports and the volume handed by each port. Figures (excluding oil information) supplied by the Israeli Embassy.

World moves to keep peace

From NICHOLAS HERBERT, Middle East Correspondent, Beirut, May 24

Egypt and Israel edged closer to the brink today as the world's corridors of power hummed with diplomatic efforts to solve the crisis over navigation in the Gulf of Aqaba.

Egypt announced that a blockade had begun, with mines laid, air and naval units on the look-out and shorebased artillery in position. Israel denounced the move as a flagrant violation of the law of the sea and dispatched its Foreign Minister, Mr. Abba Eban, to Europe in search of support.

U Thant, United Nations Secretary-General, began his personal peace effort on the spot in Cairo while a wider move was initiated, at the request of Canada and Denmark, in the Security Council.

Mr. Brown, the Foreign Secretary, conferred with Mr. Kosygin in Moscow. Mr. George Thomson was at the State Department, and Mr. Wilson, like President Johnson, declared that the Tiran Straits, now in the hands of Egypt, were an international waterway.

With the Soviet Union taking the Arabs' part while the United States and Britain inclined to the Israel view, the first positive proposal came from the French Government, which invited the other three big powers to join him in an attempt to find a solution.

President Nasser, in the eye of the hurricane, received messages in Cairo from both the General and President Johnson but seemed in no hurry to receive U Thant, who began his talks with Mahmoud Riad, the Egyptian Foreign Minister.

Dr. Yusef Zeayen, the Syrian Prime Minister, returned to Damascus after a brief talk with President Nasser, presumably covering the decision to blockade Israel's southern port of Eilat.

This, it was disclosed in Cairo, came into force at noon yesterday when ships approaching the straits were told that mines had been laid and that their passage must therefore be planned for them in advance. Egyptian torpedo boats off Sharm el Sheikh were instructed to intercept Israel ships, inform them that the gulf was part of Egyptian territorial waters and that they might not pass.

Aid for Palestine refugees

A ship failing to respond would be fired upon. Egyptian boarding parties would inspect other vessels bound for Eilat, studying their manifests if necessary to determine if the cargo included strategic goods.

These details were given by *Al Ahram* which declared that armed conflict seemed likely to break out at any moment along the Israel-Egypt border. The dangerous and suspicious role of the United States and its satellites in support of Israel was aggravating the situation, it said.

U Thant, beginning what is perhaps the most difficult diplomatic essay of his career, was joined by two military advisers and by Mr. Laurence Michelmore, chairman of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (U.N.R.W.A.), whose presence underlined the fact that the United Nations is still operating in the Middle East, in spite of the demise of its Emergency Force (U.N.E.F.).

It was stated here today that in Gaza alone U.N.R.W.A. had a staff of 3,000, who were continuing to operate the programme for assisting refugees from Palestine, and there are many other operations outside the political field in the area. Indeed Syria was reported today to have requested assistance from the United Nations Children's Fund.

In Beirut, where hotels reported heavy cancellations of bookings, dependants of members of U.N.E.F. continued to arrive from Gaza on their way home. Notices were posted up in hotels and clubs advising American and British tourists to avoid travel in Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Israel.

There was further diplomatic visiting within the Arab world and President Arif of Iraq said the "liberated" Arab states were in constant touch. Their leaders would meet at the summit if necessary, he added.

Syria and Jordan, however, continued their private battle and it became clear today that Jordan's expulsion of the Syrian Ambassador amounted to breaking off relations altogether. Diplomatists from both countries were returning home and in Jordan, where a virtual state of emergency was declared last night, propaganda against Syria was exempted from a general ban on inflamatory journalism.



Members of the Security Council discussing the Middle East crisis in New York yesterday. They include Mr. Hans Tabor of Denmark (left), Mr. Arthur Goldberg of the United States, M. Roger Seydoux of France (back to camera) and Mr. George Ignatieff of Canada (right).

Mr Wilson insists on right to use Strait of Tiran.
By DAVID WOOD, Political Correspondent

The Times (London, England),Thursday, May 25, 1967; pg. 8; Issue 56950.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS134442169

PRESSURE IN ISRAEL TO 'GO IT ALONE'

President Johnson in Canada for crisis discussions

Pressure on Mr. Levi Eshkol, the Israel Prime Minister, to "go it alone" and not wait for international action in the Middle East crisis seemed to be increasing yesterday in Tel Aviv. There were day-long meetings of politicians.



King Husain of Jordan going to a Cabinet meeting yesterday.

A warning was given last night by Mahmoud Riad, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, that any attempt by an Israel ship to enter the Gulf of Aqaba would be considered an act of aggression.

President Johnson flew to Canada for discussions on the crisis with Mr. Lester Pearson, the Canadian Prime Minister. Canada has a contingent of some 800 troops in the United Nations force which was withdrawn from the Egyptian-Israel border.

TROOPS GO TO SOUTH

From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME—Defence Correspondent
Tel Aviv, May 25

There are signs today that the Israel Government is under great pressure not to wait for the outcome of further international dealings in the Middle East crisis and to take some kind of independent military action.

Political leaders have had almost continuous meetings in Tel Aviv, though Mr. Eshkol found time to visit forces units in the Negev.

The leadership of the 71-year-old Mr. Eshkol has come under criticism, and today's meetings were significant for the arrival in Tel Aviv of the country's former leader, Mr. David Ben-Gurion, now 80, called from his retirement home.

This does not necessarily signify a change of leadership, but it is possible that Mr. Ben-Gurion and other public strong men, such as General Moshe Dayan, the former Chief of Staff, could be coopted in a wider coalition Government to indicate more backbone in Israel's policy.

Lost initiative

The feeling here is that each day passing without action by Israel has further taken the initiative out of Israel's hands and the advantage thus lost may be irretrievable. Certainly the fact is that the feeling of crisis, rather than coming off the boil with the intervention of the great powers, is tonight as tense as ever in Tel Aviv.

The streets are almost deserted because of the massive departure of men and vehicles, and no military concentrations are visible between here and the Negev capital of Beersheba. This means that they are either farther south or farther west, towards the Egyptian border.

The terrain to the north does not favour any large kind of land campaign and this leads to my conclusion that the northern Army is kept at strength to repel any incursion from Syria assisted by the Iraq Army. Thus, even if Israel made a military demonstration against Syria it would more likely be in the air than on land.

It is different to the south, where, in spite of a large Egyptian concentration, it is impossible to find anyone here who rules out an Israel strike against the Egyptians.

Shortage of time

It is still very hard to see what Israel could achieve by such an action against the Egyptian troops, which are in numbers too large to allow Israel much time to make any engagement so conclusive as to force President Nasser to climb down both in Sinai and over the interference with shipping in the Gulf of Aqaba. That aspect is shrouded in secrecy.

Certainly it would be politically popular here, where the nation appears to be much more keyed up than the Cabinet.

Mr. Abba Eban, the Foreign Minister, is expected home tomorrow, but there are indications that his visit to western capitals has revealed divisions of attitude which may further reinforce Israel political elements in their belief that there is no alternative now but to "go it alone", even if the best moment has passed.

NEW YORK, May 25.—Mr Eban, on his arrival here today from London, denounced as "an act of piracy" Egypt's closing of the Gulf of Aqaba to Israeli shipping.—*Reuter.*

Egypt's War Minister in Moscow

FROM KYRIL TIDMARSH

MOSCOW, MAY 25

The Egyptian Minister of War, accompanied by a 10-man delegation, arrived here this afternoon probably to seek Soviet support and material. Mr. Shamseddin Badran was met at the airport by Marshal Grechko, the Soviet Minister of Defence, soon after Mr. George Brown had ended a three-hour talk with Mr. Gromyko.

However, in spite of last night's Soviet opposition to western plans for a Security Council resolution on the Middle East, and what is believed to have been a negative response to the idea of four-power action, there has been no loss of confidence in British circles here that the Soviet Union is not interested in a conflagration.

How much positive action the Russians are prepared to take is another matter, and diplomatic observers here believe that there is a danger that the Russians are intending to sit out the crisis for the time being while giving full propaganda support to the Arabs.

Evidence of rising Russian power	**Page 10**
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British families prepare to leave	**10**
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This verbal support has gone to great lengths including an apparent endorsement in *Pravda* of President Nasser's action in the Gulf of Aqaba aimed at restoring his "sovereign" rights, and "in fact proclaiming a return to the position existing before the Suez aggression in 1956".

With official United States, French, and British endorsement for high level four-power action, there are no signs here tonight that Mr. Brown has managed to move the Russians in this direction. While disliking United Nations peacekeeping, the Soviet Union apparently also does not want to be seen interfering in the affairs of small states.

At this point secret diplomacy takes over, and highly placed sources here tonight believe that the Kremlin will use its influence to reduce tension. How far they can do this without being seen to deviate from their support for the Arabs, remains to be seen.

Ships stopped on way to Aqaba

FROM PETER HOPKIRK

CAIRO, MAY 25

It was reported here today that two German vessels had been stopped for inspection by the Egyptians before being allowed to proceed to the port of Aqaba in Jordan.

Cairo attitude hardens

From JEAN-PIERRE JOULIN—Cairo, May 25

The firm statement today by Mahmoud Riad, the Foreign Minister, that any attempt by an Israel ship to enter the Gulf of Aqaba would be considered "an act of aggression" is seen here as a further hardening in the Egyptian position.

Observers noted that the Minister's speech came soon after U Thant, the United Nations Secretary-General, left here after cutting short his peace mission.

Until today the United Arab Republic had been far less specific in its statements, but Mr. Riad gave a warning that any attempt by any other country to carry strategic material to Israel "through these territorial waters" would constitute an unfriendly act.

The U.A.R. seems confident that Israel will remain passive, and from this, has arisen the continued hardening of the Egyptian position, observers said.

Egypt considers, as recent statements have shown, that the balance of forces is unfavourable to Israel, and that the leaders in Tel Aviv have therefore decided to avoid a conflict.

Certain officials here see last night's reported clash between an Israel patrol in the Gaza Strip and a Palestinian unit as significant. The authorities immediately stated that they considered the clash "provocative", but soon afterwards an Israel military spokesman denied that such an incident had taken place.

The Government here also gives the impression that it expects United States military intervention to aid Israel. Some observers consider that if the situation in the Middle East worsens there could be a United States Marine landing in Israel which, like the 1958 landing in the Lebanon, would be designed to prevent all conflict.

For these observers such an American action would be playing right into the Egyptian hands, as it is thought that President Nasser—besides seeking to reconquer the territory he lost in the region in 1956 and to regain his waning prestige—wants to compromise the United States in the eyes of the Arab world.—*Asence France Presse.*

Besides "proving" the oft-repeated Cairo claim of collusion between Washington and Israel, any American intervention would force two other United States allies in the region—Saudi Arabia and Jordan—into a difficult position.

If these two Governments continued their close links with the United States afterwards their position both at home and in the Arab world would be precarious.

Aided by Syria, the U.A.R. has already taken advantage of the crisis to attack both King Faisal and King Husain, and officials here say that Jordan has admitted Saudi troops to head off any revolt by the country's one million Palestinians.

Whatever American intentions really are, anti-American feeling here is mounting.—*Agence France Presse.*

Pressure In Israel To 'Go IT Alone'.
From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME

The Times (London, England),Friday, May 26, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56951.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001658

Cairo attitude hardens

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Cairo attitude hardens.
JEAN-PIERRE JOULIN

The Times (London, England),Friday, May 26, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56951.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17263802

Rising power of Russia

From NICHOLAS HERBERT, Beirut, May 25

Egypt's Minister of War, Shamseddin Badran, and the world's minister of peace, U Thant, left Cairo today in different directions.

The former flew to Moscow, where his talks in the Kremlin are likely to be an important element in the unfolding Middle East crisis: the United Nations Secretary General set off for New York after a visit of uncertain value.

It is now a clear week since the crisis became acute and the *dramatis personae* have struck their initial attitudes. While it is perhaps not too much to hope that Israel, with or without American prompting, will avoid pressing the issue in the Strait of Tiran immediately, the problem remains just where it was and must eventually be confronted.

All that has happened is that attitudes have become more rigid and therefore less negotiable. The United Nations, by any lights, has suffered a serious blow. If there is a joker in the pack, it is the Russian attitude.

It is far too soon to see how the impasse can be resolved, but some general conclusions can be drawn from the events of the past seven days.

President Nasser, playing off the four powers as a squash champion uses the walls, has presented the world with a *fait accompli* of considerable ingenuity and it will be difficult to remove him from the Sharm el Shaikh.

Nasser's case on waterways

Whatever may be said elsewhere about international waterways, to a majority in the Arab world at least he has a good case. The navigable part of the Tiran Strait at least looks as though it is in Egyptian waters and the Arab world is, after all, technically still at war with Israel, which makes a blockade look defensible.

Equally, it is hard to imagine Israel accepting the blockade in the long run, and time is against her.

All this makes it particularly difficult for the United States, which may already be regretting its loss of influence in Cairo, to shoot its way through the Tiran Strait. The crisis may prove to reflect a fundamental change in the balance of power in the Middle East; if the United States hopes to redress or prevent this, an attack on Sharm el Shaikh would be a poor beginning.

By the same token, events have suggested that the Soviet Union is now the dominant political power in the area, even if the United States Sixth Fleet and what remains of Britain's Middle East Command give the west a military edge. The game is not over yet but, as a Lebanese businessman said to me last night, there is a feeling that "we are all under the sway of the Soviet Union". The Vietnam war is making itself felt here, too.

Another product of the crisis has been the possibility that France's detachement from the United States and the Soviet Union, not to say Britain, can be put to good use. Maddening though it may be in Washington to hear French criticism of the Vietnam war, it gives General de Gaulle an opportunity in the Middle East which he has not been slow to seize.

His proposal for four-power consultations still looks the best hope.

Finally, the crisis may be said to have exposed the danger of too easy an assumption that Jordan or Saudi Arabia can effectively balance Egypt and whatever allies it happens to have at any given time.

President Nasser has made no concessions to King Husain or King Faisal but they have had to yield something to him. Both have mobilized behind his leadership and Jordan has apparently agreed to Iraqi troops crossing its territory, something formerly studiously avoided.

It also transpired today that Jordan's break with Egypt's ally, Syria, was less complete than had at first been stated and did not amount to a rupture of diplomatic relations. The Jordan Embassy in Damascus will not be closed and Syrian diplomatists will remain in Amman in spite of the departure today of the ambassador.

According to *Al Ahram* in Cairo, the Egyptian blockading force permitted two German vessels to pass through the Tiran Strait on their way to Aqaba, Jordan's only port, but this very fact emphasized how easy it would be at some future date to exert decisive pressure on Jordan.

It was reported from Rome that units of the United States Sixth Fleet, carrying 2,000 marines, had sailed for the eastern Mediterranean —an answer perhaps to the Soviet suggestion that the British and United States fleets should get out of the Mediterranean altogether. The Sixth Fleet was due to dock in Beirut tomorrow but was asked to postpone the visit by the Lebanese Government, which said the time was inappropriate.

Rising power of Russia.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Friday, May 26, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56951.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS168389818

United Nations gloomy as U Thant returns

From ERIC BRITTER, New York, May 25

U Thant, United Nations Secretary-General, last night was flying back to New York from his trip to Cairo, which he cut short by 24 hours, and is working on a report to the Security Council on the outcome of his talks with President Nasser. The report is expected to reach council members tomorrow evening.

There is a suggestion that an attempt will be made to reactivate the Egyptian-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission (E.I.M.A.C.), which has not functioned since 1956, when Israel withdrew from it. At the time there were many raids across the border by Arab refugee members of the Fedayeen organization, and Israel objected to E.I.M.A.C. as being ineffective.

The United Nations, which helped to negotiate the original truce between Israel and Egypt, has never regarded the armistice agreement as being abrogated. The legal machinery for a E.I.M.A.C. has remained in being, even though it was not working. If the two countries now want to revive it, the Mixed Commission could restart functioning without much delay.

According to a United Nations official, nothing was known here before this afternoon about a report from Cairo that fighting was said to have broken out in the Gaza Strip between units of the Israel Army and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

There are no longer any patrols of the Unef operating in the strip. In Gaza itself, there are three observers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (Untso), but they do not patrol. Their task is to investigate "incidents" and report to their chief of staff, who is General Odd Bull of Norway.

However, the atmosphere at the United Nations headquarters is gloomy after yesterday's abortive meeting of the Security Council. In retrospect, it is clear that the meeting was not well timed and that the Canadian-Danish resolution, innocuous as it seems on the surface, was tabled too hastily and without proper consultations with those council members—particularly the African and Asian representatives—whose support should have been enlisted if the motion was to succeed.

In the event, the United Arab Republic scored a tactical victory. It persuaded enough council members, including the two communist members, that there was no need for any emergency action.

Indications now are that the council members will want to consider U Thant's report on his Cairo trip and consult their capitals before they meet again to see what can be done. The council may not be reconvened before Monday—although it would certainly meet sooner if hostilities started.

United Nations gloomy as U Thant returns.
From ERIC BRITTER

The Times (London, England),Friday, May 26, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56951.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS168520890

Families get ready to leave

From PETER HOPKIRK

CAIRO, MAY 25

The British families most exposed to danger if war broke out are a small community of about 20, including children, at the Meghara coalfield, near El Arish.

They work for Powell Duffryn, the engineering consultants, and live in bungalows near the newly discovered coalfields on the way to Gaza.

Mr. H. V. Richardson, the British Consul, who yesterday sent warning letters to the British community in Egypt advising them to leave, told me that he doubted whether they would receive theirs.

"But I hope they are listening in to the B.B.C. overseas news and hear of the Government's warning that way."

David Hotham's article, which normally appears on this page has been moved to page 5 to make space for greater coverage of the Middle East crisis.

He added that it was too early to say how many Britons had decided whether to stay or to leave, though he thought some of the long-standing residents would probably decide to remain.

Meanwhile the British mission was setting an example by preparing to send home the wives of members of the staff with young children and non-essential members of the staff. This involves half a dozen families and four or five other people. The Vice-Consul told me: "We are sending them home as and when we can get bookings."

As some prepared to leave, suitcases and tennis rackets were stacked inside the mission entrance. Wives paid a hurried visit to a "bring and buy" sale in aid of the English church before going home to pack.

Other families were having difficulty in deciding. One woman told me: "If we go home and it all blows over quickly we are left looking foolish—and that much out of pocket."

One party of British mission families and non-essential staff is due to leave for home on Saturday.

Families get ready to leave.
From PETER HOPKIRK

The Times (London, England),Friday, May 26, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56951.

Category: News

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TIMES PAST
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ONE WORLD: TWO CRISES

Western and Russian leaders alike are aware that alongside the new eruption in the Middle East there are the spreading dangers from the war in Vietnam. MR. BROWN and MR. GROMYKO have to go from the one crisis to the other and back again; and that very fact lights up something puzzling about Russia's part in the latest flare-up in the Arab-Israel dispute.

Of course, there is nothing new or strange in Moscow's general support for the Arab states. Russians have long argued that the Arabs have the men, they have the oil, they have—most of them—the right responses to anti-imperialist jingo. Of course, too, Russia is quick to see the anti-imperialist possibilities in any crisis, new or old. It is accordingly hard to imagine that PRESIDENT NASSER told the U.N. troops to go home (thereby leaving the field open to the rival national forces) without having reason to expect moral and material backing from Moscow.

The neat pattern of Soviet behaviour, however, soon gives way to something much less clear. Traditionally Russia never likes taking on, or having to cope with, more than one big trouble-spot at any one time. STALIN always kept the rule in mind. Yet here the Russians seem, on the face of it, to be plunging into a full-scale Middle East crisis while they already have more than enough on their hands with the dangers and acute embarrassments of Vietnam. It seems out of line.

Soviet commentators have already been bringing the two crises together in a way that is significant behind all the distortions of the propaganda. According to VICTOR MAYEVSKY, of *Pravda*, "the worsening of the situation in the Middle East is linked with the new crimes of the United States aggressors in Vietnam—the encroachment into the demilitarized zone and the stepping up of the barbarous bombing of Hanoi". *Izvestia*, arguing that the United States aid to Israel had to be paid for, says that the Americans pushed the Israelis into attacking Syria and that Israel cargo ships and tankers are "now carrying supplies and fuel from the United States and Japan to South Vietnamese ports". Other articles and broadcasts have gone farther in picturing a very clever world-wide offensive launched by Washington.

Some part of all this may sincerely reflect the Russian view that the Americans, already bogged down in Vietnam, are landing themselves in other international tangles and must take on a worse public image in the world. On the other hand Soviet propaganda has often to be read mirror-wise before the true meaning appears and, when that is done in this case, there emerges a strong and direct Russian concern about the interconnexion between Vietnam and the Middle East.

Such concern could work itself out in one of two ways. Moscow, criticized by China and others for not doing more in the "anti-imperialist war" in Vietnam, may be glad to keep its end up by loudly and busily supporting Egypt and her militant friends. More probably, having pledged its support to the Arabs, Moscow may obstruct any peace moves so long as the United States is, at the other end of Asia, bombing the outskirts of Hanoi and putting down the Vietcong. Such a link might never be made explicit. It may never appear as a pre-condition for Middle East talks. Nevertheless the Middle East could provide the Russians with the leverage they feel they lack in the Far East.

MR. BROWN and others who are seeking a settlement of the new crisis must continually trip over the consequences of the American-Soviet division. There is little point in blaming the futility of the United Nations so long as the big-power rift exists. What is more alarming is the way in which Vietnam shackles both America and Russia and prevents their approaching nearer to one another. Everything still suggests that Russia, suspicious of China's programme and potential strength, would gladly take out some insurance with the west, but cannot do so while morally obliged to go on supporting North Vietnam and the Vietcong. Americans, on their side, are much readier to forget all the exaggerations of the cold war.

On the surface, it seems that the new crisis will throw the two sides further apart. That may indeed be the result unless some remedial action is possible soon. The guns will go off without anyone knowing who pressed the button. What can be done? The idea of getting agreement on some new kind of United Nations "presence"—why not simply call it a civilian team?—is worth pursuing. It could usefully stand watch on the borders. But, as the United Nations is stultified by the Soviet-American rift, another forum may have to be found for the meeting.

It may be said that a change of meeting place would simply transfer the rift, but the French idea of a four-power conference is worth looking at more closely. It would have to have as its aim the restoration of international legality where that has been lost or is in danger, notably in the Gulf of Aqaba. But it might work. The Russians tend to favour summits, and they may argue —still looking over their shoulder at Vietnam—that France stands nearer to them over ending the war there, and so would be a useful partner at this summit. Certainly this should be explored; two crises are too many.

One World: Two Crises.
The Times (London, England),Friday, May 26, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56951.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS184773818

RUSSIA TELLS BRITAIN: STOP BACKING ISRAEL

Mr Wilson curtails American visit because of crisis

Russia yesterday called on the western powers to use their influence to halt Israel " provocations " against the Arab states and said that the three-day visit to Moscow of Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, had shown that Britain was supporting Israel.

A warning by Mahmoud Riad, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, that British ships would be stopped and searched at the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba if they wished to proceed to Israel was met yesterday by the Foreign Office with a firm assertion that the entrance was an international waterway.

President Nasser told a delegation of Arab trade unionists in Cairo that the basic aim was to destroy Israel. Egypt would not give up its rights in the Gulf of Aqaba.

Mr. Wilson has curtailed his visit to Canada and the United States next week so that he can be at hand to deal with any developments in the Middle East crisis and can lead in a Commons debate on Wednesday.



U Thant arrives back in New York from Cairo yesterday. He reports to the U.N. Security Council on his talks with President Nasser today.

Nasser calls Britain his enemy

FROM PETER HOPKIRK

CAIRO, MAY 26

President Nasser, speaking for the first time since blocking the Gulf of Aqaba, tonight accused Britain of being the enemy of Egypt. He said Arab countries should know their enemies and their friends and treat them accordingly.

" France ", he went on, " because of the personality of President Charles de Gaulle does not follow the American and British line."

He accused the United States, Britain and the West of supporting Israel because they were " enemies ". Russia he praised for supporting the Arab cause.

President Nasser's speech to members of the Pan-Arab Workers Federation was reported late tonight by the official Middle East News Agency. He warned that sealing of the gulf meant possible war against Israel " and we are prepared for this encounter ".

" The battle with Israel will not be limited to the Syrian or Egyptian front but will be wholesale war to destroy Israel. This is a true Arab resurrection."

Warning on shipping

Britain has been warned by Egypt that her ships will be stopped and searched at the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba if they wish to proceed to Israel.

The warning was given by Mahmoud Riad, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, in a statement replying to Mr. Wilson's declaration that the Strait of Tiran is an international waterway.

I understand that one British bulk carrier which was intending to visit Eilat has instead continued on through the Suez Canal. Mr. Riad said that " innocent " ships would be allowed to pass, but that strategic goods would first be removed.

MOSCOW REAFFIRMS PRO-ARAB POLICY

From KYRIL TIDMARSH, Moscow, May 26

Immediately after Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, had left for London this afternoon with the remark that " things didn't go badly at all " during his visit to Moscow, the Soviet Union reassented its view that Israel was to blame for the tense situation in the Middle East.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said at a press conference that in his talks here Mr. Brown had shown that the British Government " was in fact supporting the state of Israel ". In the discussions, however, it was emphasized to him by the Soviet side that " it supports the just position of the United Arab Republic, Syria, and other Arab states resisting the pressure of imperialism ".

Other Middle East crisis reports Page 10
Leading article Page 11
Letters Page 11

I asked Mr. Leonid Zamyatin, the head of the Press Department, what steps the Soviet Union would like to see taken to lessen tension. Would it like to see a return to the situation before the present crisis or before 1956 ?

Mr. Zamyatin replied that Israel was indulging in provocations against the Arab states and that the western powers should " influence Israel to terminate these actions ".

The purpose of the press conference, it seems, was to demonstrate that during Mr. Brown's visit the Soviet Union in no way departed from its pro-Arab position, publicly outlined in its statement on the eve of the Foreign Secretary's arrival.

Vietnam was discussed in all of Mr. Brown's talks, including his meeting this morning with President Podgorny. According to the Foreign Ministry statement Mr. Brown was told that America's allies, including Britain, could do a useful job in indicating clearly to the United States the great dangers of escalation.

Mr. Brown's efforts to persuade the Russians to take another look at the new west German Government's eastern policy do not appear to have had much effect. The statement regretted that British policy was suffering from a lack of realism in that it was supporting Bonn, which was hostile to east Germany.

The Russians assessed the talks, which the statement said were conducted in a " frank " atmosphere, as useful in spite of the differences over a range of issues.

Tonight *Izvestia* said that the United States Sixth Fleet was " openly menacing the Arab peoples with its guns ". A military crisis was being engineered in the Middle East under the protection of American warships.

Moscow, May 26.—Mr. Brown said at a press conference: " Here and in other capitals there is a very great, urgent desire to de-fuse the situation. If that is so, there is a chance it will be de-fused."

Among other things Mr. Brown said he had raised " very strongly, indeed on more than one occasion," during his visit the question of Gerald Brooke, the British lecturer who is serving a five-year sentence for bringing anti-Soviet literature into Russia.—*Reuter.*

Commons debate next week

By DAVID WOOD, Political Correspondent

Mr. Wilson has cut his visit to North America next week by three full days so that he can deal personally with the contingencies of the Middle East crisis and take the lead in a Commons debate when Parliament reassembles on Wednesday.

Mr. Wilson took the initiative to arrange the Commons debate when last night he telephoned Mr. Heath, the Opposition leader, and Mr. Thorpe, the Liberal leader, to ask if they would fall in with his suggestion that Commons business already announced for Wednesday should be postponed to allow immediate consideration of the Middle East crisis.

Both promptly agreed. The Government's present intentions are that Mr. George Brown, Foreign Secretary, who returned to London from his Moscow talks last night, should make a full opening statement and that Mr. Wilson will wind up before he leaves next morning for his truncated visit to Ottawa and then goes on to Washington.

Mr. Brown immediately reported to Mr. Wilson at 10 Downing Street last night when he got back from Moscow.

Russia Tells Britain: Stop Backing Israel.
From KYRIL TIDMARSH

The Times (London, England),Saturday, May 27, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56952.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001659

Shortened report blamed for confusion

MR. HEATH (Bexley, C.).—Does the Foreign Secretary realize that the reason for the mixed reception of his speech here was that his reference to "no aggrandisement" was followed immediately by his reference to Jerusalem. He appeared to be doing exactly what he said he did not wish to do: forecast what the new arrangements would be, and suggests that it would be the status quo from which these troubles originally sprang. (Opposition cheers.)

Is it his view that the final frontiers remain to be settled as part of the total package of arrangements?

On the denial of the participation of British troops in the crisis, the Foreign Secretary said in his speech that he had placed the ships' log books in the Library of this House and that they were available to anyone who wants to see them. This is not the case but, even so, is this strong enough to prove to the rest of the world that there was no participation?

The House is anxious to learn exactly what the position is about the canal being closed. What is the reason for it? How did it happen? Where is it closed? Is there any reason why the four British ships should not be allowed to go out to the south?

What is the position about British refugees from Middle East countries coming home? What is the Government doing to look after them?

Too hurried assumption

MR. BROWN.—On the first point, about what I said and how he got it wrong. . . . (Opposition cries of protest.) Yes, if the Leader of the Opposition had waited to read my speech—and, in particular, paragraphs 19 to 22—he would have seen that one followed immediately after the other. (Ministerial cheers.)

The real point of the misunderstanding as far as he was concerned was that, not for the first time, he took a shortened, and therefore, inevitably distorted, passage from a newspaper and fastened on that to say that I had somehow misled people. (Renewed Opposition cries of dissent.)

In paragraph 19 I started with Jerusalem and in paragraph 22 I followed with the question of the rights of states to live. I do not accept from Mr. Heath that I was in any way responsible for any misunderstanding there was in this House the other day.

We are in too much of a hurry here to take a newspaper's shortened report and assume that is exactly what was said.

I made it clear in my speech in New York and in my statement today that states have a right to live in true dignity and freedom and be able to earn their living in peace. That is why I said in New York—and believe—that there will have to be a balance against some other demands which will be made.

On the question of the log books I believed, when I was in New York, that they had already been placed in the Library of this House. I now learn that it took rather longer to collect them from the ships. They are now here, and they will be in the Library in a day or so. I apologize for the delay. Maybe I assumed too much. I thought it would be a rather simple matter to collect them. (Opposition interruptions.)

No gunboat

It is no use giving the impression that there is anything here other than the ordinary business of collecting from the ships which are dispersed about the seas.

The Suez Canal is blocked in two areas—between Ismailia and Port Said and at the southern end. It is reasonable to assume that it was blocked by ships or other obstacles placed there by the Egyptians. It is a matter of great urgency to persuade Egypt or use some other means to get it open. (An Opposition cry of: "What other means?")

I have not the slightest intention of sending a gunboat up to do it. (Ministerial cheers.) May I suggest to the Opposition that we should treat this with a bit of sense. We want to end this crisis with a lasting settlement. (Ministerial cheers.) This is a matter for acting in concert with our friends.

There are 13 ships in the area; we have four of them. I am in touch with all the other countries. We all believe at this moment, given that Egypt is losing by keeping the canal shut, and given that we have our passengers and most of our crews off, that it would be wrong to go crowding in at this moment on this issue.

We have most of the British subjects home. The bulk of those staying behind are in Israel. We are looking after them as they come home. We have reserved all our rights for compensation for property and other kinds of disturbance.

'Drop that one'

MR. HEATH.—The Foreign Secretary must not think that absence in New York is sufficient grounds for ignorance of what the press of this country, and the rest of the world, or members of this House, have been saying. (Opposition cheers.) What I said was that his speech had been widely interpreted, and when you read it in full it is still open to that interpretation. (Renewed Opposition cheers.)

What evidence was there that Israel was intending formally to annex the old city of Jerusalem? No evidence was produced.

As far as denying the lie about British participation, my point is that the House of Commons Library is not open to the rest of the world to examine the log books of British ships. If he wants to deny that, he must take more active steps.

MR. BROWN.—In the last five days the only person I have met who casts any doubts on the lie being a lie is Mr. Heath. (Ministerial cheers.) If he wants to mix it we will mix it.

There was nobody in New York who believed this any longer, or cast doubt upon our denials any longer, and the Egyptian representative did not even include it in his speech. If I were Mr. Heath I would drop that one as fast as I could. (Ministerial cheers.)

As for the press, five or six days' absence from this country will never make me ignorant of the misrepresentation that can appear in the press nor will it ever dupe me to the extent to which Mr. Heath will make up for his own deficiencies by seizing on them and trying to use them. (Ministerial cheers.)

As Mr. Heath once served in the Foreign Office he well knows there are things one cannot say in public. There is a distinguished team who serve in our posts abroad, most of them known to him, and a distinguished team of advisers, on whom he relied, and I had every reason to take the moment for saying what I said.

MR. HEATH.—As I was the first to stand up in this House and support the Prime Minister's statement that British troops did not take part in the operations in the Middle East, I challenge the Foreign Secretary to produce any evidence that I have ever believed that lie, and I call on him to withdraw. It is much too soon for him to behave like the Prime Minister. (Opposition cheers.)

MR. BROWN.—The remarks Mr. Heath made seemed to me to do less than justice to the position of our country. That is why I said what I said.

MR. THORPE (North Devon, L.).—Does the Foreign Secretary not think it is unfortunate that he has to come to this House and explain what he really meant by his speech, whether in this Chamber or the United Nations? Having read the speech in full, would he not agree it is unbalanced to refer to withdrawals in the context of Article 2 without any reference to the threat to the integrity of Israel?

It would be unethical if our present stand indicated that we were trying to revive friendship with the Arab countries at the price of selling Israel down the river.

MR. BROWN.—"The unbalanced nature" of the speech has now got a good deal of currency, but nobody who heard it thought it unbalanced—neither British correspondents who were there, nor my colleagues, no other countries, nor any commentator.

Of course there is a problem to face. Everyone who has held this position, in whatever Government, has had to face it. The moment one balances consideration for the case of the Arabs with that of the Israelis one is under enormous pressure of being unbalanced for that very reason. I am not the first Foreign Secretary who has suffered from this difficulty.

The question of appeasing the Arabs at the expense of Israel is not a charge that could ever be levelled at me with any justice.

For very highly personal reasons I have every reason for caring about the integrity and right to live of Israel, and there is not the slightest chance of my forgetting it, but Britain has important, vital interests in that part of the world and a British Foreign Secretary has to consider that as well as other things. That was what I was trying to do.

Condemning

MR. WILLIAM HAMILTON (West Fife, Lab.) asked if there had been any response by the Israeli Government to the suggestion that Jerusalem should be regarded as more or less an international free city?

MR. BROWN.—There are many arguments, I have no doubt, going on in Israel, and there are views there about how their interests would be safeguarded. I would rather not comment on them. I have had no comment from the Israeli Government about the future. This must be part of the final settlement.

We are acting in concert—what should be done, when it should be done and how it should be done.

It would be a mistake for a number of reasons, he added, to move in the direction of an injunction in the International Court.

MR. SHINWELL (Easington, Lab.).—The Foreign Secretary's desire to ensure a lasting and peaceful settlement in the Middle East is shared by every member. (Cheers.) There is no dispute about that.

But does he appreciate that his warning to Israel on the subject of territorial aggrandisement created the impression that he was condemning Israel, that he was prejudging the intentions of Israel before seeking to ascertain the facts. (Cheers.)

In view of the conversations he had with Mr. Kosygin, President Johnson and others, did he seek conversations with the Israeli Foreign Minister before he made his speech at the United Nations in order to ascertain what the intentions of the Israeli Government were?

The Foreign Secretary speaks about what might have happened if the Arabs had gained the victory. Does he recall the threat by the Arab states and President Nasser of annihilation of Israel. (Cheers.) How then does the question of territorial aggrandisement emerge?

MR. BROWN.—I did not have discussions with Mr. Eban before I made my speech. (Cries of "Why not?") Many delegates, Foreign Ministers and Prime Ministers wanted to see me before I made my speech. I decided that if I saw any of them before I spoke there was the gravest risk of it being alleged that what I said was being due to the influence of somebody or other.

MR. SYDNEY SILVERMAN (Nelson and Colne, Lab.). — Why warn one of them?

MR. BROWN.—Because I had good reason to worry about what was going to happen, and I wanted to do what I could to ensure it did not happen.

As to the point about the Arabs and previous threats, I have taken exactly the same stand with them as I have taken with the Israelis. Our business is to maintain the long standing traditional and very profitable friendship with the Arabs and with the Israelis. I will try to hold it this way.

I ask Mr. Shinwell not to ignore the value to us of our friendship with the Arabs and not to ignore the contribution we need to make in that area. Any idea that I would engage in double-talk he can write off straight away.

I spoke to them equally frankly in New York, privately as I have in public, in exactly the same terms and they all know the basis on which I think a settlement ought to be made.

Neutrality dilemma

MRS. McKAY (Clapham, Lab.).—Will the Foreign Secretary say, profit motive apart, that the Government appreciates that the Arab nations have long-standing grievances which should be understood, examined and rectified? (Ministerial cheers.)

MR. BROWN.—I recognize, as I said the other day, that the Arab nations, like Israel, have a case which should be heard, listened to and dealt with. That I firmly accept.

But let me make it plain that there is no doubt in my mind or that of the Government that Israel has lived under provocations and difficulties which have equally to be taken care of (Renewed cheers.)

There is nothing more uncomfortable than trying to maintain a genuinely neutral role. We have to see that both cases are heard and dealt with fairly. I do not want to be misunderstood as necessarily saying that that means that one case is less strong than the other.

MR. BELLENGER (Bassetlaw, Lab.).—With reference to what the Foreign Secretary said about a final settlement, who will make it? Will it be the United Nations or the belligerents who will settle it?

MR. BROWN.—This is again one of the issues to be worked out. I feel pretty sure, but I am not laying it down as a firm commitment, that it will be better for us all if this is done under United Nations aegis, however the original discussions emerge. I have a feeling that it will have to be United Nations operation right the way through.

The permanent members of the Security Council, in my view, have a considerable role to play and a great responsibility here. This I said firmly to Mr. Kosygin; this we discussed with our American friends and I discussed with M. Couve de Murville.

It may be that in the end it will be the permanent members of the council who will be able to edge this thing through. However it is done, at the end of the day it must be registered at the United Nations and somehow operated and policed by them.

Shortened report blamed for confusion.
The Times (London, England),Saturday, May 27, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56952.

Category: Politics and Parliament

Gale Document Number:CS84503739

Proposal for UN guard post in Red Sea



By Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds

The world is strewn with narrow waterways where periodic attempts to halt the free movement of international shipping have engendered crisis and war. Today, the straits of wrath are to be found in the Middle East, and on Wednesday the House of Commons will be considering one of that area's shipping bottlenecks—the straits of Bab el Mandeb, separating Africa from Asia at the southern entrance to the Red Sea.

In Arabic Bab el Mandeb means literally "Gates of Mourning", so called from the dangers attending navigation through its two narrow channels. One of these, on the Asian side, is barely two miles wide, comparatively shallow and with a surface current sweeping northwards. The other channel, on the African side, is one of the world's great maritime highways, 16 miles across, 170 fathoms deep, and used daily by scores of vessels.

Separating—and commanding—both gates of Bab el Mandeb is a small volcanic island not much larger than Gibraltar. Its name is Perim and, potentially, it could prove to be one of the world's most strategic positions. For the past 100 years, Perim has been British. But under the Aden Independence Bill, which Parliament must pass this week, Perim is due to be handed over to someone else—though the British Government have not finally decided to whom. The obvious—and most likely—candidate is the new South Arabian Federation, from which Britain administers Perim and to which Mr. George Brown recently gave a pledge of military support after independence. But the views of Perim's 300 or so inhabitants must be ascertained first.

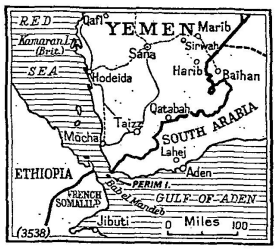
CASH UNDER THE BED

It was the East India Company which first landed British troops in Perim in November, 1798. Worried by Bonaparte's invasion of Egypt, the company thought that by occupying Perim they could stop up the Red Sea against a French thrust towards India. Lack of water forced a withdrawal but in 1857 the Admiralty took over from them. Perim was formally annexed not as legend has it, to prevent a French landing but on a clearsighted assessment of Perim's strategic value in the event that current plans for a Suez Canal were realized, as they came to be some years later.

The Royal Navy soon turned Perim into a bunkering station. During the great days of coal it enjoyed a modest boom. Lieutenant Lawrence, an early British administrator, was murdered when a mutinous detachment of the locally raised Yemeni Light Infantry tried to get at the Government's petty cash, kept in a tin box under his bed. But on the whole Perim was one of those classically calm outposts of late Victorian imperialism, complete with gleaming white Residency, Eastern Telegraph Company, croquet lawns, and Indian sepoys.

At the height of the coal-bunkering boom Perim had a population of some 2,500 Arabs and 200 Europeans. But as oil replaced coal, the island fell into decay. Depredations of local Yemeni contractors have left its once stately buildings roofless and window-less. Looking out from the portholes of the innumerable ships that pass within hailing distance, the modern voyager sees only a shrub-covered landscape with dilapidated buildings gathered about the harbour, and a volcanic hill, 241ft. high, to the north.

At one time the B.B.C. maintained on Perim one of its most powerful Arab language transmitting stations, transferred there from Somaliland. But this was burnt to the ground after a mysterious explosion. No announcement was made at the time, even though investigation revealed that the cause was not sabotage but accident; yet ever since, the voice of Britain in this part of the Arab world has been dependent on a temporary 10 kilowatt station in Aden, plus longer range broadcasts from Malta. There are no plans to replace the B.B.C. station on Perim. Instead



a 1500 kilowatt station is being built for the island of Masirah, where British V-bombers will be stationed, at the eastern end of the Arabian peninsula.

Yet if Perim today is no more than a ghost of its former self, its strategic position is such that the island could be quickly transformed either into a dagger pointing at the throat of the southern Red Sea or, more valuably, into an international sentry box, standing guard over Bab el Mandeb. It has three indispensable assets for good or for ill—a small but useful harbour which controls two vital lighthouses, an air strip that could be extended to take most military aircraft, and a position from which heavy guns could sweep the main shipping channel.

It is clearly open to question how these assets will be used once Britain lets go of Perim. There can be no guarantee that the island will not fall into hostile or unstable hands, willing perhaps to abuse its strategic situation to interfere with freedom of passage. At present, the South Arabian Federation, to which the Foreign Office would prefer to hand over Perim, is heavily dependent on Britain. Its present rulers are as unlikely as, at the moment, they are unable, to turn Perim into a gun emplacement whose fire could command the Straits. But who can foretell the future, especially in the Middle East? Once Britain finally withdraws from its defence commitments to Aden, it is at least open to question whether some future government of the Federation, dependent perhaps on Egypt, or on the Soviet Union, will not seek to use Perim to stop Israeli, if not other, ships.

All recent experience suggests that these are not idle anxieties. Britain might therefore be wise to propose that Perim, with the consent of its inhabitants, should henceforth be administered by no single nation but by an international body, pledged to maintain free passage for ships (and planes) of all nations. A motion allowing the Government to put forward such a solution is to be made in Parliament tomorrow. It suggests that "For the purpose of rendering peace more secure in the general area of the Arabian peninsula and the adjoining gulfs and seas. . . her Majesty on the advice of the Foreign Secretary may lease Perim to the United Nations or any of its agencies willing and able to establish there a peacekeeping mission".

The chief concern is that Perim could —and should—provide a physical home-on-the-ground for an international peacekeeping force. Some such force, preferably U.N. sponsored, sooner or later will have to be established in the Middle East if there is to be peace. To be effective it must have one or more "sovereign base areas". Only from such areas, which they control themselves, can U.N. observers operate by right, immune from the domestic pressures of host countries, and free of the danger of being ordered out, as U.N.E.F. was from Sinai.

Perim could be the first of the U.N.'s peacekeeping territories. True, it is remote from the Arab-Israel cockpit; but with a squadron of helicopters plus the means of quick reinforcements even a small detachment of U.N. observers in Perim could keep an eye on what soon may become another major trouble spot —south Arabia and the Horn of Africa. A U.N. presence in Perim would also go far towards ensuring freedom of navigation through Bab el Mandeb.

Legally there is no doubt that Britain is entitled to place Perim under the U.N. It has never been an integral part of Aden colony, nor of Yemen or French Somaliland. Nor is it likely that the present Arabian Federation would object to a U.N. presence.

STEP TOWARDS PEACE?

Whether the U.N. will prove willing, or able, to accept trusteeship status for Perim is a matter for speculation. The best way of finding out is to put it to the test. But the charter not only permits but virtually invites member nations to place strategic territories under U.N. trusteeship. Article 77 calls on this to be done "by the voluntary decision of the states responsible for their administration". Article 81 permits either the U.N. organization itself, or one or more member states, to administer such "trusteeship territories" under the Security Council.

The ideal arrangement might be for Perim to be administered by a consortium of powers, including a representative of both the Arab states and the international maritime community. No one can imagine that this would be easy to arrange. Even if, as many judge likely, the U.N. hesitates to accept it, Britain (by agreement with the Arabian Federation) could continue to administer the island on behalf of the international community. No additional garrison would be needed.

To establish a U.N. guard post at the southern end of the Red Sea would be good for Perim and good for Britain, good for Israel and good for the Arabs. Most of all it could mark a new beginning towards the creation of a meaningful peacekeeping force pledged, under the U.N., to uphold freedom of passage in one of the world's vital waterways. Would not this, in itself, be a step towards peace?

Proposal for UN guard post in Red Sea.
By Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds

The Times (London, England),Saturday, May 27, 1967; pg. 9; Issue 56952.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS152267963

Nasser threat on Suez Canal

Action if others interfere

From PETER HOPKIRK, Cairo, May 28

President Nasser today gave a warning about the Suez Canal if war broke out between Israel and the Arab states.

"If it is a war with Israel nothing will happen to the Suez Canal", he said. "But if others interfere there will be no Suez Canal. I say this clearly and openly."

The President used his press conference to present his country's case and military intentions to the world and to warn the United States, which he called "the greatest power in the world". He said the Egyptians would resist American intervention with all their force.

"What have we done to provoke the United States", he said. "Why have they sided with Israel? We have lost all confidence now in them."

He said the Arabs would never accept coexistence with Israel. In no circumstances would Egypt lift the ban on Israel ships passing through the Strait of Tiran. About the United Nations peace-keeping force he said: "They shall not return."



President Nasser at his press conference.

Fit and confident

At one stage of the press conference the President said: "I am not yet 50. I am not a sickly person like Mr. Eden. I sleep well. I think you can see I am very fit."

He had been asked how, personally, he was bearing up to the "immense pressure" of the present Middle East crisis. In spite of a grave demeanour, the President, who kept 200 newspaper and television men from many countries waiting for 20 minutes, looked fit and confident.

Journalists attending the press conference had been required to obtain a letter guaranteeing their identities from their embassies before being given a pass. Questions had had to be submitted in writing 48 hours before the conference.

Attack expected

For the first 14 minutes the President addressed the reporters from a prepared statement outlining Egypt's case against Israel before beginning to answer their questions.

CAIRO, May 28.—During the 80-minute conference the President said that he expected an Israel aggression any day, that there was no hope for negotiations based on coexistence with Israel, and that he did not want the present crisis to lead to a confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union.

He emphasized that Egypt rejected British and American contentions that the Strait of Tiran was an international waterway.

Egypt has asked the chief United Nations truce observer to secure the immediate return of three Egyptian officers and two soldiers captured by Israel today when they were found driving in a jeep 20 yards inside Israel territory.—*Reuter.*

Middle East news and pictures, page 3; Leading article, page 9.

Kosygin note to Israel

FROM CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

TEL AVIV, MAY 28

Mr. Levi Eshkol, the Israel Prime Minister, continued today to be caught between a cross-fire of advice from at home and abroad. British and American pressure was being exerted to prevent, at all costs, Israel taking independent military action to break out of the war of nerves in Sinai and the Gulf of Aqaba.

He was also studying a letter from Mr. Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, which was delivered by the Soviet Ambassador and apparently counselled a peaceful solution to the crisis in less uncompromising terms than Soviet public statements in the past few days.

Cabinet ministers have been in almost continuous session since Mr. Abba Eban, the Foreign Minister, returned from Washington last night, although a formal Cabinet meeting began only this afternoon. Most of the night and all this morning has been taken up again with the problem of broadening the present coalition.

TEL AVIV, May 28.—Israel indicated tonight that she had no immediate intention of using force to break the Egyptian blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba.

Mr. Eshkol said in a radio address that Israel had laid down policy lines intended to "obviate the necessity of Israel having to use her armed forces for her defence".—*Reuter.*

Nasser threat on Suez Canal.
PETER HOPKIRK

The Times (London, England),Monday, May 29, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56953.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS18181309

Canada flying its UN men home

Egyptian charge of bias

From PETER HOPKIRK—Cairo, May 28

The Canadian contingent of 800 men of the disbanded United Nations Emergency Force has been given 48 hours to leave Egypt because of the Canadian Government's " biased stand in favour of Israel ", the Cairo newspaper *Al Ahram* reported today.

The paper said that General Muhammad Fawzy, the Egyptian Chief of Staff, had sent an urgent message to U Thant, the United Nations Secretary-General, and to General Rikhye, the commander of the Emergency Force, saying that the Canadian attitude had " aroused public opinion ".

[An Ottawa dispatch said that the Canadian Government was providing emergency transport to fly the contingent home. It also said that Mr. Lester Pearson, the Canadian Prime Minister, had said that the reasons advanced by Egypt for its action were " based on a regrettable misunderstanding of Canadian policy ".]

The general evacuation of the United Nations force from Gaza and Sinai was beginning today, with the Indian contingent of 978 men leaving in two days in 10 charter aircraft.

Half of Yugoslavia's 508 troops will leave by air from Port Said on Saturday and the rest by sea on June 19.

Death for plotting

According to the political editor of *Al Ahram* the Canadian troops were warned to leave immediately because their Government's " belligerent " attitude " might reflect itself in the feelings of both the United Arab Republic's people and armed forces at a time when the Canadian contingent is still stationed in U.A.R. territory in the vicinity of Egyptian Army posts ".

Other developments today and over the weekend:—

Foreign correspondents who attempted to go on board ships at Port Said sailing to Aqaba through the Egyptian-held Strait of Tiran were turned back.

A new draft penal code reported for the U.A.R. includes the death penalty for anyone who communicates information to, or collaborates with, the enemy or is involved in plots designed to shake the loyalty of the armed forces or weaken their morale. The circulation of rumours in time of war carries a 10-year sentence.

The Boycott of Israel bureau says that most of the international shipping companies are cooperating with the U.A.R. order requiring details of all vessels using the Strait of Tiran. It says that navigation is proceeding regularly in the case of all non-Israel ships not carrying strategic materials.

Pledge on oil

The newspaper *Al Goumhouria* reports Mahmoud Younes, one of the Egyptian deputy Prime Ministers, as saying that oil agreements with United States companies will be respected by Egypt, " which welcomes the stay of representatives of these companies willing to remain in spite of orders by the American Government to leave ".

Another newspaper, *Akhbar al-Yom*, reported at the weekend that if war broke out as a result of interference by the Americans, " several British and American bases on Arab soil will receive heavy blows from the Arab workers ". The oil supply to the west would be halted " when Arab workers blow up the pipelines ".

As part of the growing attack on Britain the Cairo *Al Akhbar* said today that the United States had told Britain and France that she could not shoulder the whole burden of any armed intervention " to save Israel ".

President Johnson has urged Egypt to exercise restraint and desist from any offensive military operations which could lead to a grave military situation, *Al Ahram* also said today.

It said that the Egyptian Ambassador in Washington had received a message on Friday containing this appeal. It added that Cairo's attitude was that to carry out the decision to exercise sovereign rights over the Gulf of Aqaba was not an aggressive act. Any interference with Egypt's rights over the Gulf would, however, be an act of aggression.

British ship on way to strait

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ADEN, MAY 28

The British India line's cargo vessel Canara left Aden yesterday for the Strait of Tiran and the Jordan port of Aqaba before going to Marseilles. Though no time of arrival had been estimated, the journey up the Red Sea was expected to take two days and I understand that her master was advised to keep in touch with the authorities in London when she was close to Aqaba.

Why Labour MPs toured Egypt

One of the four left-wing Labour M.P.s who returned at the end of last week from a nine-day visit to Egypt as guests of President Nasser's party, the Arab Socialist Union, yesterday defended their decision to go ahead with the trip during the Middle East crisis.

The M.P.s, who left Britain on May 16, the day Egyptian forces were put on a state of alert against Israel, were Mr. James Dickens (Lewisham, West), Mr. William Griffiths (Manchester, Exchange), Mr. Richard Kelly (Don Valley), and Mr. Stanley Orme (Salford West).

Mr. Dickens said he thought it was very important for M.P.s to see what was going on inside the United Arab Republic during the crisis.

He was not able to disclose the results of talks with President Nasser, but he thought these had proved " extremely important ".

Amending programme

The group had gone to Egypt to see the development of the U.A.R. They had looked at heavy industry, textiles, agriculture, and tourism, and had met many people both inside and outside the Arab Socialist Union.

Their hosts had laid on a full programme before their arrival, but had been ready to amend it, and Mr. Dickens said: " They made no attempt whatsoever at any time to shepherd us around."

Cabinet meets tomorrow

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A full meeting of the Cabinet is expected to be called tomorrow to consider the latest reports and to prepare for Wednesday's debate in the Commons on the Middle East threat to peace.

Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, who will open from the Treasury bench, is known to be drafting a precise statement of the Government's interpretation of the legal basis for Britain's insistence that the Strait of Tiran must be kept open as an international waterway.



Caroline Kennedy breaks a bottle of champagne on the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy at Newport News, Virginia. Her mother watches the ceremony.

THREAT TO WEST OVER OIL

New anti-Israel weapon

From NICHOLAS HERBERT—Beirut, May 28

Iraq today joined Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in threatening to use oil as a weapon in the Middle East crisis. According to Baghdad radio the Iraq Cabinet decided to deny oil to any country supporting aggression against an Arab state.

Kuwait has threatened to freeze the huge Anglo-American oil concession there if Britain and the United States support Israel in attacking the Arabs.

This was the clear implication of an announcement that any country supporting armed Zionist aggression against Arab rights would have its interests in Kuwait suspended.

Saudi Arabia, whose concessions are almost wholly American-owned, has been less specific.

Although it is often said that western Europe, which still gets more than 65 per cent of its oil from Arab countries, is far less vulnerable than it was during the 1956 Suez war, the possibility of an interruption in the flow of oil must enter into the calculations now being made in Washington and London.

Misplaced hopes

The Kuwait Oil Company is owned on a 50-50 basis by British Petroleum and the Gulf Oil Corporation. Britain and the United States have an interest in the Iraq Petroleum Company.

Comfortable assumptions about mediterranean suppliers could prove misplaced. Algeria is well to the fore among those supporting President Nasser. Libya has said little, but as a member of the Arab League it has declared that an attack on one Arab country would be considered an attack on all. Moreover, pressure is still building up. Sudan for example, ordered a general mobilization today and sent a military delegation to Cairo for talks.

Growth of unity

There is now a remarkable degree of unity, at least on the surface, among the Arab states. Witness the fact that even the arch-rebel, President Bourguiba of Tunisia, appears to be drifting back into the fold. By my count nine Arab countries are now mobilized and another, Algeria, says it is sending forces to fight in Egypt. Only Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and the petty shaikhdoms of the Gulf, of which the latter are virtually without forces, remain in a lesser state of readiness.

It would be wrong to over-emphasize this—there has been more talk than action so far on sending forces to Egypt, Syria and Jordan—but hostilities would have an even greater unifying effect.

Israel march draws 10,000

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A mile of people marched along Bayswater Road, W., yesterday to " send a message of solidarity and encouragement to the people of Israel in this, their hour of crisis ". Police estimated that a column of 10,000 people, Jews, and non-Jewish supporters, walked from Speakers' Corner to Palace Green.

At the embassy the deputation, led by Sir Barnett Janner, M.P., president of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, handed in a message.

It said that they represented all sections of the Anglo-Jewish community and non-Jewish supporters, and they appealed to British public opinion to support the just cause of Israel

Rule of law

" We welcome the statement of the British Prime Minister that the Government is ready to take part in international action to maintain the Strait of Tiran as an international waterway ", the message said. " We strongly urge that this action be taken immediately. . . .

" Our earnest hope is that the rule of law and justice will prevail and the integrity and sovereign rights of all nations be respected, thereby establishing a lasting peace in the Middle East to the benefit of all its peoples."

Sir Barnett read the message to a small crowd who had managed to get past police to stand outside the embassy. Among the deputation were politicians from the three main parties, Mr. Kenneth Lindsay, chairman of the Anglo-Israel Association, the Rev. Dr. Isaac Levy, and the actress Miriam Karlin, in a pink trouser suit.

Canada flying its UN men home.
From PETER HOPKIRK

The Times (London, England),Monday, May 29, 1967; pg. 3; Issue 56953.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS52128957

THREAT TO WEST OVER OIL

New anti-Israel weapon

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Threat To West Over Oil.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Monday, May 29, 1967; pg. 3; Issue 56953.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS52391101

TIMES PAST

THE TIMES

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NO IMPROVEMENT

PRESIDENT NASSER did nothing at all to reduce the atmosphere of tension when he spoke at his press conference in Cairo yesterday. Perhaps it is something to be thankful for that he did not make matters infinitely worse. It is only a small comfort, however. Some of his statements were so self-centred and so fanatical that it is hard to see any safe way out of the crisis. The immediate danger is that the more headstrong and militant among the Israelis will insist the more strongly that nothing is to be gained by waiting.

It is PRESIDENT NASSER'S way of producing unsupported assertions that is the most baffling. For example, he declared yesterday, when giving his reasons for telling the U.N. emergency force to pack up earlier this month, that Syria had been threatened by Israel and a date fixed for invading her. He seems to have produced not a syllable of evidence to bolster this allegation. The raids and counter-raids were dangerous enough, but had come to be regarded as almost a permanent hazard of the frontiers, sometimes becoming more threatening, sometimes easing off. If anything it was the Syrians who had been putting on the pressure in recent months.

Then, at another part of the press conference, there was PRESIDENT NASSER'S flat assertion that no international convention regulated navigation in the Gulf of Aqaba. This disregards the well-established rights of passage through similar straits to similar seas, and also ignores the 1958 Convention of the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone. This led PRESIDENT NASSER to produce a badly telescoped argument—that, as the Strait of Tiran (at the mouth of the gulf) was Egyptian territorial water, Egypt could stop any ships she wanted from passing through. Then came the expected, classical warning, heard so often before: the aggressors would be those who challenged his reading of the case and who wanted their rights to continue as they were before his unilateral action.

Clearly a collision is inevitable so long as rigid attitudes are dominant, on whichever side. How to bring about some modification? It is extremely doubtful whether the Security Council, if it meets today as suggested, will be able to be productive. The best hope must be that the four Powers—the four permanent members of the council, less Nationalist China—will exert a restraining voice. It looks as though Russia will not let them formally meet. They will not be able to move in concert. Nor is it necessary that they should. But each in its own way can go on speaking, by way of warning and reassurance, where it can be most effective.

Very possibly the international status of the gulf will have to be tested before the International Court, but events will not stand still of themselves while the legal arguments are deployed. The Powers' influence is needed meanwhile, first to dissuade anyone tempted to rash action, and later to see whether U.N. teams—invaluable as observers—cannot be restored on the frontiers.

No Improvement.
The Times (London, England),Monday, May 29, 1967; pg. 9; Issue 56953.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS151219389

Letters to the Editor

LAW AND THE GULF OF AQABA

From the Representative of the League of Arab States

Sir,—The letter of the Director of the Anglo-Israel Association (May 26) urging the U.K. Government to support the rule of law in the Gulf of Aqaba and his implied accusation of the Arab States as having flouted the U.N. machinery are extremely misleading in portraying that the law and the authority of the U.N. are on the side of Israel with regard to the present situation in the Middle East. The facts stated below should certainly tell a different story:

1. The existence of an Israeli coast line on the Gulf of Aqaba is a direct result of an act of force by Israel contrary to the 1947 U.N. Partition Plan of Palestine. Israel's occupation of the Port of Eilath and that part of the coast line are an example of Israeli military expansionist policy in defiance of the U.N. rule.

2. The entrance of the Gulf of Aqaba is less than nine miles wide and it is therefore within the 12 mile limit legally allowed for territorial waters. Due to the state of war between Israel and Egypt the passage of Israeli ships through the Tiran Straits was denied until 1956 on legally accepted grounds. Their passage since 1956 was a result of the Suez aggression against Egypt which was resoundingly condemned by the U.N. and whose final traces had to be liquidated. Surely it is not the rule of law to allow an aggressor to retain the fruits of his aggression.

3. Israel has continuously flouted U.N. resolutions and hindered U.N. peace keeping efforts. It has refused to accept U.N. troops on its side of the border in 1957 and had since boycotted the U.N. mixed armistice commission with the U.A.R.

4. The military attacks by Israel against a number of neighbouring Arab countries for which Israel was six times condemned by the Security Council are examples of the rule of the jungle which Israel pursues. Its claim for sympathy on the basis of legality and international law are manifestations of extreme cynicism.

5. Israel by acts of force had rendered the 1.5 million Arab inhabitants of Palestine as homeless refugees. It has arrogantly and persistently defied the U.N. over their repatriation and compensation for nearly 20 years. This human tragedy is the real cause of tension and danger to world peace in the Middle East.

Yours faithfully,

TALIB EL-SHIBIB.

League of Arab States, London Office, 1-11 Hay Hill, W.1.

existence of the Exchange division of Manchester?

According to your admirable book on the General Election, the electorate shrank from 36,000 in 1964 to 26,000 in 1966, and it is no doubt continuing to shrink. This would not be a "built-in advantage"; it would be a legislated-in seat. The motto of today's progressives would thus seem to be "Back to Old Sarum". But after the Home Secretary's cynical postponement of the London Borough Elections, which should have taken place earlier this month, it seems clear that there is very little to which the present Administration will not stoop for the purpose of remaining in power.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN BOYD-CARPENTER.

House of Commons, S.W.1, May 25.

ABORTION BILL

From Sir John Peel and others

Sir,—The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill, as amended in Standing Committee, is to be considered at the Report Stage on June 2. We would like an opportunity to make clear the position of the Councils of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and of the British Medical Association, and so to avoid any possibility of misrepresentation.

Throughout the discussions on the Bill, we have sought to ensure that the legislation shall be in the interests of the health of the mother and provide adequate safeguards for the foetus. We would, therefore, be prepared to give support to a Third Reading of the Bill only if further amendments are made to Clause 1, so that it would read:—

(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a person shall not be guilty of an offence under the law relating to abortion when a pregnancy is terminated by, or under the supervision of, a registered medical practitioner holding an appointment as a consultant in the National Health Service or by a registered medical practitioner approved for the purpose of this section by the Minister or Secretary of State, if that practitioner and another registered medical practitioner are of the opinion, formed in good faith:—

(a) (i) that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk to the life or of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman;

(ii) in determining whether or not there is such a risk of injury to health account may be taken of the patient's total environment actual or reasonably foreseeable, or

(b) that there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped.

These changes would be effected by the passage of certain amendments now tabled for the report stage, notably those numbered 1, 11 and 17, in the names of Mr. Bernard Braine, and of Sir John Hobson and others.

In making this statement we are adhering exactly to the opinions we have always held and have hitherto expressed

Law And The Gulf Of Aqaba.
TALIB EL-SHIBIB. League of Arab States, London Office, 1-11 Hay Hill, W.1

The Times (London, England),Monday, May 29, 1967; pg. 9; Issue 56953.

Category: Letters to the Editor

Gale Document Number:CS151612605

AMERICA SENDS EXPERT TO AID CAIRO ENVOY

Mr Eshkol expects early action over Gulf of Aqaba

Mr. Charles Yost, an American expert on Middle East affairs, arrived unexpectedly in Cairo yesterday. The State Department in Washington said he had been asked to go to Egypt to confer with Mr. Richard Nolte, the Ambassador.



The Egyptian vehicle, of Soviet make, which crossed into Israel territory near the Gaza Strip on Sunday, carrying three officers and two men, who were taken prisoner.

Mr. Levi Eshkol, the Prime Minister, told the Israel Parliament last night that in view of "firm commitments" he expected the United States, Britain and other countries to take action soon to remove the Egyptian blockade of Israel shipping in the Gulf of Aqaba.

He spoke some hours after an outbreak of firing near the border of the Gaza Strip between Arabs and Israelis—the first incident of the kind for almost 10 years on the Israel-Egypt border, where the United Nations Emergency Force stood guard until its withdrawal 10 days ago.

In Moscow, Dr. Nureddin al Atassi, the Syrian head of state, arrived to discuss the Middle East crisis.

US PUTS EMPHASIS ON DIPLOMACY

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT—Washington, May 29

The State Department tonight confirmed that Mr. Charles Yost, a member of the department's advisory committee on Near Eastern affairs, had arrived in Cairo today to consult with Mr. Richard Nolte, the United States Ambassador, and his staff.

Mr. Carl Bartch, the State Department press officer, said that Mr. Yost had gone to the United Arab Republic at the department's request in view of his long experience in the Near East as Ambassador and later in the United Nations.

It was expected that he would remain in Cairo for a few days, he said, but he had no information on any specific messages that Mr. Yost might have taken with him.

Mr. Eshkol's statement in the Knesset today that Israel expected Anglo-American action to remove the Egyptian blockade of the Strait of Tiran within a short period of time was vigorously, if privately, denied here tonight.

If Mr. Eshkol meant naval action, I understand that there is no reason to believe that such action to clear the strait is contemplated for the near future. Certainly no such assurances were given to Mr. Abba Eban, the Israel Foreign Minister, here last week.

Such an action is not ruled out and it could be precipitated, but the United States has decided that every effort must first be made to resolve the problem by peaceful means.

Mr. Eban was told that diplomacy might not work, but at least it had to be given a try. Any suggestion of urgency was confined to diplomatic action.

Senator Jacob Javitts, of New York, called on Mr. Dean Rusk, the Secretary of State, and afterwards said: "There is no question of unilateral United States action at this time." He did not exclude the future possibility of joint military action, and said that the United States must not foreclose any options while seeking a peaceful solution.

Nevertheless, the United States should first seek action through the United Nations or, if that failed, in concert with other countries.

Warning by President Nasser

CAIRO, May 29. — President Nasser gave a warning today that Egypt must treat the United States and Britain as enemies because they were siding with Israel.

The President, addressing the National Assembly soon after it had given him power to rule by decree during the crisis, said: "If the western countries slight us and deny our rights we shall teach them how to respect us."

He added: "We are not facing Israel, but those behind it. We are facing the west, which created Israel."

The issue was not that of the Gulf of Aqaba, the Strait of Tiran, or the withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force, but "aggression against the Palestinian people in 1948 with the United States' and Britain's help".

"We are ready to bring the entire Palestine issue into the open", he said.

Earlier the President had told Parliamentarians, who called on him at the Republican Palace to tell him that he had been empowered to rule by decree, that Russia would stand by the side of Egypt in battle.

He said that a message from Mr. Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, had been conveyed to him by the Egyptian War Minister, who returned to Cairo yesterday after a brief visit to Moscow.

Debate in Lords

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The House of Lords yesterday changed the business announced for Thursday to allow for a full debate on the Middle East situation. Lord Longford, Leader of the House, and Lord Gardiner, Lord Chancellor, will be the main speakers for the Government.

Other Middle East news, page 5. Louis Heren on the forgotten agreement, page 8.

Israel relying on West

From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME, Defence Correspondent—Tel Aviv, May 29

Israel has decided to await the outcome of Anglo-American measures to free the Gulf of Aqaba for her shipping. Assurances received from Washington and from London are regarded here as so emphatic as to be worth waiting for.

The nature of this Anglo-American action is not disclosed but the Israel Cabinet has been convinced of the necessity of giving the two powers a chance to release Egypt's blockade of the Strait of Tiran. Mr. Eshkol's Government, however, still reserves the right to take independent military action in the event of international methods proving inconclusive.

This right is likely to be used more as a method of keeping up the pressure on the western effort than as genuine tactics, because of the present difficulties of Israel's military position.

There is a possibility that the charged atmosphere along the frontiers could inflame incidents into serious action, but this possibility is receding already, with a shooting incident at Gaza today being kept under control.

These lines of policy emerged more clearly today when Mr. Eshkol followed last night's broadcast with a speech to the Knesset.

In this he said that there had been firm commitments, and the Israel Government expected effective action from the great powers in the near future. Israel was deeply impressed by the American determination to free the Gulf of Aqaba for shipping.

Mr. Eshkol praised Mr. Wilson's stand. He gave a warning that Israel was not only interested in the freedom of shipping, but was also concerned with the possibility of an Egyptian attack so long as the concentration in Sinai existed. Israel's Army would remain mobilized to guard against this, he said.

TEL AVIV, May 29.— In its report on today's shooting incident the Israel Army said that it went on for 40 minutes. One Israeli was slightly injured. The Army said that Egyptian positions opened up on a motorized patrol and on Israel farm workers with machine-gun and mortar fire. The Israeli patrol replied with machine-guns.—*Associated Press.*

America Sends Expert To Aid Cairo Envoy.
FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, May 30, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56954.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001662

MIDDLE EAST: AMERICAN AND SOVIET DIPLOMACY BUSY IN CAPITALS

Syrian leaders go to Moscow

American views are rebuffed

From NICHOLAS HERBERT—Beirut, May 29

Dr. Nureddin al Atassi, the Syrian head of state, flew to Moscow today to discuss the situation in the Middle East, which his Prime Minister said was ripe for "the battle of Arab destiny". Much hangs on whether, if the Kremlin disagrees with this assessment, it can dissuade Syria from acting upon it.

Dr. Atassi was accompanied by Dr. Ibrahim Makhous, the Foreign Minister, who was reported today to have rejected an American memorandum as an attempt to impose a trusteeship on the Arab homeland.

It was officially stated in Damascus that the American Ambassador was told that the United States had no special status under the United Nations Charter which allowed it to interfere in the area.

The American views, as listed by the Foreign Ministry, suggested that Israel harboured no aggressive intentions, that terrorism was contrary to the armistice agreement, that a United Nations presence should be retained between Egypt and Israel, and that freedom of navigation must be permitted in the Gulf of Aqaba

Protection plans

The Soviet Ambassador has also been active in Damascus and last night saw Dr. Yusuf Zeayen, the Syrian Prime Minister. At the same time Moscow was reported to have made plans to protect Soviet-financed development projects in the Middle East in the event of war.

If much depends on what the Russians say to him, much more seemed today to hang on events inside Israel. As Mr. Michel Edde, the Lebanon Information Minister, said today, matters could resolve themselves overnight in Israel one way or the other.

In Mr. Edde's view, whatever he does Mr. Eshkol, the Israel Prime Minister, will have difficulty with Mr. David Ben-Gurion, who favours war. Mr. Edde expressed the hope, however, that Israel would decide to accept the *fait accompli* and return to the position before 1956. If not, the Arab response would come from all sides because where Palestine was concerned there was complete unity among the Arabs. Everyone felt that President Nasser had won a great diplomatic victory in recent days.

President Nasser has offered far more balm, real and imaginary, than any other leader. The result is clear. At his call Iraq troops are in Syria, Kuwait today sent a contingent to Sinai, and mobilization is general.

Dr. Zeayen favours taking advantage of this unity. Addressing a meeting in Damascus today, he said that Israel's bending before the decisive Arab stand was only the beginning of the road to liberation. The strangulation of the port of Eilat would be complete and would be seen in true perspective when economic and military targets in Israel had been destroyed, before the restoration of usurped Arab rights.

He repeated threats of destroying western oil installations, adding: "The west has vital interests in our countries and the whole of western Europe does not have petroleum reserves to last more than a limited number of days. If it agrees to live in darkness for the sake of Israel it will have committed a crime against itself."

Muhammad Abdul Aziz Salam, the Foreign Minister of the Yemen Republic, gave a warning that imperialists were planning to open a second front in Yemen to divert attention from Israel. President Nasser had assured him last week, however, that should this happen, more Egyptian troops could be sent to counter it.

Talks in 'warm atmosphere'

FROM KYRIL TIDMARSH

MOSCOW, MAY 29

Dr. Nureddin al Atassi, the Syrian head of state, accompanied by his Foreign Minister and Minister of Information, was greeted in Moscow today by Mr. Kosygin. This Syrian mission follows the Egyptian War Minister's three-day talks and is clearly part of the Soviet Union's demonstration of support for the Arab cause in the Middle East crisis.

According to Tass, Dr. Atassi and his Ministers are here on a "friendly visit". Their talks with Mr. Kosygin this afternoon, in which Mr. Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, and Marshal Grechko, the Defence Minister, took part, were held in a "warm and heartfelt atmosphere".



Mr. Arthur Goldberg, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, addressing the Security Council on the Middle East crisis. Others present are Mr. Gideon Rafael (Israel), Mr. George Tomeh (Syria), Mr. Nikolai Fedorenko (Soviet Union) and Lord Caradon

Tory demand for solution by UN

Mr. Edward Heath, the Leader of the Opposition, said in a speech yesterday at Milton, near Peterborough, that the United Nations should secure freedom of access to the Strait of Tiran and the Gulf of Aqaba. Otherwise "the maritime powers themselves must concert together to retain that freedom of access".

"I want to make clear", he said, that I believe it is the responsibility of the United Nations first and foremost to find a solution to this problem. I believe the United Nations peacekeeping force should not have been withdrawn."

It should not have been withdrawn without reference to the Security Council or the General Assembly. There should have been time in which effective action could have been taken

However, it had been withdrawn, and now there was a threat to the freedom of access.

Mr. Heath recalled that in 1957 the Conservative Government had stated that international freedom for shipping should be maintained.

CLOSE WATCH KEPT BY FOREIGN SECRETARY

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC STAFF

Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, worked in his office yesterday, watching Middle East developments, and preparing his speech for the parliamentary debate on Wednesday. He was also available for consultation during the Security Council debate, at which Lord Caradon was expected to speak for the United Kingdom.

There was no reaction at the Foreign Office to President Nasser's threats to close the Suez Canal, as these were seen as a statement of possible, but natural, moves in the event of a war with Israel in which others were involved, and not as a threat to retaliate if action were taken by maritime powers to maintain their rights under international law in the Gulf of Aqaba.

The decision of the Israel Cabinet not to take any further action is believed to provide a useful breathing space of several days. Three possibilities of remedial action might arise in that time. There is the chance that out of the Security Council debate could come a resolution leading to the return of a United Nations "presence" to Sinai and Sharm el Sheikh.

There is also the possibility of four-power action. The Russians have not yet replied to the French proposal, and President Nasser's reference to President de Gaulle may suggest to them that such an initiative is less unwelcome in Cairo than they first thought.

Also possible, though requiring more time to launch, is some joint action by the maritime powers interested in free passage into the Gulf of Aqaba. Discussions are going on.

The Prime Minister remained in close touch yesterday with developments, which were reported to him at Chequers, where he returned on Sunday after a meeting with Mr. Brown. It was thought unlikely that Mr. Wilson would see other Ministers before the Cabinet meeting.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman in London said that the recall of some Royal Navy men from South Wales to Portsmouth was "a routine recall", which would have occurred with or without the present Middle East situation.

Rome peace appeal to Iraq

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

ROME, MAY 29

Signor Fanfani, the Foreign Minister, today continued the Italian efforts to secure a peaceful solution of the Middle East crisis. He met Adnan Pachachi, the Iraq Foreign Minister, who was on his way to New York, at Fiumicino airport.

In a message at the weekend Signor Fanfani suggested that the Iraq Minister should take a direct hand in the search for peace, impressing on him the need to work through the United Nations. The Iraq Minister suggested today's meeting.

They had luncheon together at the airport. In the short time at their disposal they are said to have covered all aspects of the Middle East crisis.

Signor Fanfani also received the Russian and Israel Ambassadors today. In the past few days he has had brief talks with U Thant and has received the heads of all the Arab diplomatic missions here.

Washington plan for compromise

Part lifting of blockade

From JOHN W. FINNEY, Washington, May 29

The Administration was reported today by Congressional sources to be considering a possible compromise solution to the crisis in the Middle East under which the Gulf of Aqaba would be opened immediately to all ships except those flying the Israel flag.

Under the proposal, President Nasser would relax his blockade so that all non-Israel ships, including those carrying cargoes for Israel, could pass through the Strait of Tiran into the Gulf of Aqaba.

The Administration envisages the proposal as an interim step towards an international convention regulating the movement of ships through the Gulf. Under the convention, Egyptian territorial sovereignty over the Strait of Tiran would be recognized, but restrictions would be placed on Egypt's rights to limit ship movement through the narrow waterway controlling access to the Gulf.

Under the convention, Israel would be given freedom of passage through the waterway, though limits would be imposed on the movement of Israel warships during time of war.

Highly placed Defence and State Department officials were reported by Congressional sources to be citing as an historical precedent for such a convention the Montreux Covention of 1936 governing ship movements through the Dardanelles and Bosporus Straits.

Restriction rights

Under this, Turkey was granted exclusive sovereignty over the two straits. At the same time the principle of free international passage through the straits was affirmed, with Turkey given some rights to restrict the movement of merchant ships and warships when threatened with imminent danger of war.

Administration officials declined to comment, but Congressional sources in close consultation with high Administration officials said the proposal was being seriously studied as an alternative in the event that diplomatic efforts through the United Nations to lift the Egyptian blockade of the Gulf fail, as is expected.

According to these sources, the Administration feels that such a compromise might provide a face-saving retreat for all sides on the critical blockade issue.

On the assumption that Nasser's present ambitions are limited to restoration of his prestige within the Arab world, it is believed such a compromise might be acceptable to him.—*New York Times News Service.*



Arabs loyal to Israel demonstrate in Tel Aviv for the right to serve in the Israel Army.

Need to end drift

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

GENEVA, MAY 29

The necessity of reopening the Arab-Israel problem with the aim of achieving a permanent settlement, and of putting the strait of Tiran issue to international arbitration, was emphasized by several speakers here today at the Pacem in Terris convocation.

Chief S. O. Adebo, Nigerian delegate at the United Nations, said the crisis was a result of the situation in the Middle East being allowed to drift for the past decade. The whole question should be reopened by the United Nations.

Middle East: American And Soviet Diplomacy Busy In Capitals.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, May 30, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56954.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS84110526

Letters to the Editor

TYPE OF FORCE UN COULD SEND

From Mr. Leonard Behrens

Sir,—Some years ago a few members of the British United Nations Association visited Russia as guests of the United Nations Association of the Soviet Union. Among other matters, we discussed the problems of a U.N. Police Force to maintain the common peace in areas in which it was likely to be disturbed. Our Russian hosts offered the usual objections, which we countered. At this point an eminent and respected international jurist among the Soviet representatives suggested that the composition of such a force would have to vary on each occasion in accordance with circumstances.

At the time we thought in terms of the national composition of the contingents; but Mr. Humphry Berkeley's proposal (May 24), together with Mr. Alistair Horne's objection to it (May 27), suggests that a U.N. Force need not be military: it could equally well be naval, with or without air support. Such a force could secure the passage of traffic through the Gulf of Aqaba for all maritime nations.

An American or Anglo-American force could be suspected, however unjustifiably, of having ulterior national motives. A U.N. Force would present no threat to any law-abiding State.

Such an undertaking would be a novelty and therefore objectionable to those who do not willingly agree to doing anything for the first time. But, if the idea is sound, there must be a first time. Why not now? "*Il n'y a que le premier pas qui coûte.*"

Yours, &c.

LEONARD F. BEHRENS.

Netherby, 119 Barlow Moor Road, Didsbury, Manchester 20.

Legacy of Suez

From Mr. Anthony Nutting

Sir,—One of the more nauseous by-products of the present Middle East crisis is the way those who led us into Suez are rushing into print to claim that Egypt's actions today proved that they were right in 1956. How disingenuous can they get? It was disgraceful enough that they deceived Parliament and the people at the time of Suez by pretending that they were trying to stop a war which they had in fact promoted in order to seize the Suez Canal. But now they would have us believe that all along they were really trying to preserve Israel from annihilation by her neighbours!

Instead of compounding their deception by these afterthoughts they would do themselves more honour by admitting, however belatedly, the truth of what they were trying to do at Suez.

In fact the present crisis is the direct result not of the frustration of their Suez policy but of their attempt to use Israel as their stalking horse in attacking Egypt. By so doing they confirm the suspicion of every Arab Nationalist that Israel was created to serve the "imperialist" designs of the West, not as a refuge for persecuted European Jewry. And every event since its creation from the Israel seizure of Eilat in violation of the 1949 Armistice to Mr. Eshkol's recent threats against Syria is seen by the Arabs as another threatened encroachment by the West against their territory.

Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY NUTTING.

3 Cheyne Walk, S.W.3.

Two threats to peace

From Mr. Humphry Berkeley

Sir,—I regret that Mr. Alistair Horne (May 27) should refer to my letter and to the United Nations Association, of which I am Chairman, in such emotive terms.

It is of course quite obvious that if Unef were to operate from Israel soil, it would not protect Israel's access to the Gulf of Aqaba. Nobody thought that it would.

There are two possible causes for the outbreak, in the future of open fighting between Israel and the Arab States—border incidents and the blockade of the gulf. A continued United Nations military presence would reduce the likelihood of the former and President Johnson's declaration may reduce the likelihood of the latter. As such, both should be welcomed.

Mr. Horne judges the threat to peace to come from Egypt. It is remarkable therefore that he should show the same contemptuous attitude towards the peace-keeping efforts of the United Nations force as that displayed by President Nasser.

Yours faithfully,

HUMPHRY BERKELEY.

Bromham Hall, Bedford, May 27.

No one has suggested that my driving has caused the slightest danger to the public, to myself or to property and I am disturbed at the arbitrary effect of automatically adding an endorsement to a fine for offences which go unpunished a hundred times for every occasion on which the police take action. This inequity not only brings the law into contempt: it also makes me wonder whether the possibility of losing my job during the next 32 months as the result of a further conviction is just a matter of chance.

The attempt I am now making to conform absolutely to the letter of every driving regulation is so difficult as to be virtually impossible, particularly in and around London, where the main stream of traffic frequently exceeds the prevailing speed limit. Nor does the tension involved in abandoning common sense for a rigid application of rules make for greater safety.

Might it not be wise after all to restrict automatic disqualification to drivers convicted of causing danger to the public? Certainly if I lose my livelihood after a third conviction which does not in itself merit disqualification I shall suffer a sense of outrage and injustice that is not likely to make me a better citizen. Shall I be alone in that?

Yours faithfully,

N. T. WOOLLEY.

75 Cambridge Street, S.W.1.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

From Mr. Geoffrey Barrell

Sir,—No schoolmaster worth his salt enjoys using a cane. As Dr. Harrington points out (May 25), every profession has its black sheep. Remedies exist to deal with them and it would be a pity if the publicity given to a few bad cases should arouse an emotional state resulting in a bad law.

To a very large extent the cane has already disappeared from primary schools, and its use in secondary schools is diminishing. Nevertheless, the time has not yet come for its abolition by statute. In most schools the issue of corporal punishment is within the discretion of the head master, who is charged by the articles of government or rules of management with responsibility for the "internal organization, management, and discipline of the school". It is noteworthy that the spearhead of the attack on this form of punishment consists largely of those who are outside the teaching situation and of teachers in schools where discipline is easy.

I should be interested to see the mounting evidence, to which Dr. Harrington refers, that schools where physical punishment is never or rarely used have better discipline and behaviour than those where it is used frequently. Are the schools concerned strictly comparable? The matter is worth investigation.

If harm is to be done, how does one make the choice between the damage to a pupil who is punished and the soul-searing experience of a young woman in her first year of teaching who has to endure a stream of Anglo-Saxon obscenity with no apparent protection? Who will suffer more harm—a bullying gang leader who suffers a short, sharp punishment, or the sensitive child he terrorizes day in and day out?

No one will be more glad than I when the use of corporal punishment disappears from our schools, but let us wait for it to diminish naturally to vanishing point. To remove it by legislation or regulation in the immediately foreseeable future would, in my judgment, precipitate a massive flight from a profession in those areas where difficulties are already immense.

Yours faithfully,

GEOFFREY R. BARRELL, Honorary General Secretary, London Head Teachers Association.

59 Wellfields, Loughton, Essex, May 26.

THE PUBLIC MUSE

From Mr. Vernon Scannell and others

Sir,—Various speculations (predictable) have come up about the Poet Laureateship.

It has been suggested that this post should be kept on as an amusing anachronism: this would be a mockery. If it is kept on, it should be as a mode of honouring poetry: if it does not honour poetry, it should be killed.

In such a case, the consensus of opinion should be (somehow) taken among practitioners of verse. There isn't any reliable way to do this. So one must start from pressure groups, who are interested enough to put somebody forward.

The laureateship's supposed requirements to celebrate public events with trivial verse was ignored by Robert Bridges. This creates a possibly happy precedent.

In that case our candidate is Dr. C. M.

Type Of Force Un Could Send.
LEONARD F. BEHRENS. Netherby, 119 Barlow Moor Road, Didsbury, Manchester 20, ANTHONY NUTTING. 3 Cheyne Walk, S.W.3 and HUMPHRY BERKELEY. Bromham Hall, Bedford, May 27.

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, May 30, 1967; pg. 9; Issue 56954.

Category: Letters to the Editor

Gale Document Number:CS151612606

RENEWAL OF ADEN ATTACKS

British soldiers killed

From MICHAEL WOLFERS—Aden, May 30

Two British soldiers were killed and seven wounded in a renewal of anti-British violence in up-country areas today.

Near Habilayn a party of Royal Engineers on a road-building project were ambushed this morning, and, according to the military, the attack was by a gang of political dissidents.

Late last night, in another attack, about 35 men launched an assault at Dhala, close to the Yemen border on the home of the political officer, the palace of the Ruler and on a Federal Regular Army camp.

Emir's palace shelled

The attack was made with bazookas, grenades, and small arms. It was a three-cornered attack, and bazooka shells landed in the Emir's palace, in the British camp, and close to the political officer's house.

In the Aden area there has been sporadic firing without casualties. Industrial unrest is spreading, with the port now closed as a result. Estimates are that the closing of the port may cost up to £5,000 a day. About 1,400 workers are affected by the closing of the port. Several cargo vessels have been diverted to other ports. The danger is that frequent strikes and unrest will discourage shipping lines from their routine calls at Aden.

Crucial point

Lord Shackleton, Minister without Portfolio, left Aden today for London to report on the South Arabian situation to Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary. The crucial point on which he will be reporting is Britain's responsibility here after independence. Though the Federal Government is keen to take the reins of government if no agreement can be reached with the Opposition and Nationalist parties. Federal ministers are still making a demand for defence guarantees on which agreement has not yet been reached. Ministers here cite the promise from Mr. Duncan Sandys and are reluctant to accept Britain's official decision that there will be no defence agreement for independent South Arabia.

Muhammad Obali, Minister of Education, who has also been acting Minister for External Affairs and Minister of the Interior, told me today that Britain had a duty to provide defence against external aggression for the new federation, especially against Egypt. He envisaged some troops being kept in Aden after independence and aircraft based here, as the Federal air power was small. He believed that the promise made by the British Government should be kept in spite of the change of the political party in power.

Internal security

On internal security he was confident that the Federal Regular Army, now being developed with British aid, could control the situation, and he expected terrorism to be reduced. "It will be more difficult for Arabs to kill Arabs in front of other Arabs than now when people will not give evidence about attacks on British troops", he said.

He looked forward to a peaceful independence, but said: "The British always look at the law before taking measures against terrorists."

He suggested that the Federal Regular Army would adopt a different, tougher approach to political violence. He suggested also that the Federal Government after independence would take a strong line with the trade unions. "Trade unionism has not matured in this part of the world. We shall handle the trade unions as other Arab states have handled them", he added.

Asked about political discussions with Opposition parties before independence, he explained that Federal Ministers would talk with the Opposition provided that the representatives had no personal hand in terrorism, or if belonging to Flosy (Front for Liberation of Occupied South Yemen) or N.L.F. (National Liberation Front) would dissociate themselves from acts of violence.

The Ministry of Defence said the two British soldiers killed in an ambush in the Habilayn area were Corporal David Price, 25, of Hull, and Lance-Corporal Jeffrey Ince, 19, of Winson Green, Birmingham.

ADEN, May 30.—A soldier of the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, was killed by a grenade thrown at a British security patrol vehicle in the Mansurah township of Aden tonight, a military spokesman said. It was the battalion's first fatal casualty since it arrived in Aden 10 days ago.—*Reuter.*

Renewal Of Aden Attacks.
From MICHAEL WOLFERS

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, May 31, 1967; pg. 6; Issue 56955.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS102853823

Middle East Crisis

Arab lawyers say Cairo has a case

Arguments for blockade

From NICHOLAS HERBERT—Beirut, May 30

President Nasser's assertion of sovereignty over the Strait of Tiran and his denial of free passage in the Gulf of Aqaba rests on legal arguments of which Britain and the United States will have to take some notice, in the view of Arab lawyers in Beirut.

If, for example, the dispute over the status of the gulf were referred to the International Court in The Hague, legal experts in the Arab world feel that their case would be a strong one.

If a layman can hardly judge, the weight of argument is at least impressive and no one here has seen the definitive case of Britain and America for asserting that the gulf, in whose closure they acquiesced for eight years up to 1956, is an international waterway.

It is necessary first to repeat that the only navigable strait from the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba lies between the Egyptian mainland and Tiran, the larger and more western of two offshore islands.

This is a stretch of water little over three miles wide, but the shipping channel is only some 500 metres wide and lies on the Sinai side of the strait. Water between Tiran and Sanafir islands and between Sanafir and the Saudi Arabian coast is not navigable. Any ship passing through the strait must be well within three miles of the Egyptian coast.

Agreement of 1949

In the first place there exists an international agreement signed by Israel, which prohibits its sea forces —military, para-military or non-regular—from passing through "the waters within three miles of the coastline" of Egypt. This is the Egyptian-Israel general armistice agreement signed at Rhodes on February 24, 1949, at which time Israel was not in possession of Eilat, the port at the northern end of the gulf which is now partially blockaded.

This would seem to confirm that the Israel Navy cannot pass through the strait, as there has been no other international agreement governing the strait so far as one can discover. It does not, however, cover merchant shipping and in 1956 Israel leaders asserted that the armistice agreement was dead anyway. To this the Arabs reply that if it is dead then there is no agreement ending the state of active war between Israel and Egypt, which makes a blockade undeniably legitimate.

This view is based on a United Nations resolution of August 11, 1949, in which the parties were absolved, as it were, from obeying the six truce orders of 1948 because they had signed the armistice agreement.

It can also be questioned whether the armistice agreement, which was negotiated under United Nations auspices, can be unilaterally abrogated. The view of Mr. Hammarskjold, the former Secretary-General, is said to have been that it could not.

At any rate the Mixed Armistice Commission, whose resuscitation U Thant is now urging, originates in this agreement.

All this does not touch Israel merchant shipping or neutral shipping bound for Eilat, however, and here the issue becomes even more complicated. I am told that in 1950, in an international agreement registered with the United Nations, Saudi Arabia ceded the islands of Tiran and Sanafir to Egypt so that it would control both sides of the strait.

This, in itself, though, would not necessarily be enough to cement Egypt's right to close the strait if the Gulf of Aqaba were defined as an open sea. It can be argued—and Arab lawyers are very ready to do so—that the Gulf of Aqaba is an inland sea. There are two points here:—

The Arabs claim that Israel's presence in Eilat is illegal, having been achieved by force in March, 1949, in violation of the armistice agreement signed the previous month.

They claim that a precedent can be cited for giving several powers with a community of interest, and a common inheritance, control over an enclosed stretch of water.

This is said to be the case of the Gulf of Fonseca which, in a judgment by the Central American Court of Justice in 1917, was declared to fall under the jurisdiction and sovereignty of Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador as inheritors of Spain. Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, it is argued, can claim similar jurisdiction over the Gulf of Aqaba as inheritors of the Ottoman Empire.

Right of search

As a subsidiary argument to these there is the claim that even if the strait were not under Egyptian sovereignty a blockade, which is not regarded as an act of active hostility, would not be excluded by the terms of the armistice agreement, which deals only with active hostilities.

Belligerents are allowed under international law, the Arabs say, to search neutral ships, seize contraband (President Nasser's strategic goods, presumably), and capture neutral or enemy vessels which try to get through a blockade.

The question is clearly a paradise for international lawyers and could occupy a court for years. It may yet do so, but meanwhile some *modus vivendi* would have to be achieved.

In the political field, the Syrians continue to threaten destruction of imperialist oil installations, but a more serious move is that to stop production in the event of war or at least to deny oil to countries taking Israel's side in a battle.

This will be discussed in Baghdad on Sunday when a conference of oil-producing Arab states is due to meet at Iraq's invitation to coordinate oil policy. Those invited include Libya and Algeria.

Baghdad radio announced tonight that President Abdul Rahman Arif of Iraq had promised in a telephone call to King Husain to send Iraq troops to the Jordan front soon.



Even when war seems imminent, these two girl soldiers of the Israeli army still find it important to keep up their feminine charm.

SPAIN ACTS AS GO-BETWEEN

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT—Madrid, May 30

Spain, which has close relations with both the Arab world and the United States, is emerging quietly as an important communications channel in the diplomatic efforts to ease the Middle East Crisis.

Authoritative Spanish sources indicated today that, on at least two occasions in the past 72 hours, Arab governments have used this channel to send significant views to Washington that otherwise might have been difficult to convey.

The tentative conclusion in Spanish diplomatic circles in connexion with the weekend messages from Syria and the United Arab Republic is that these two Governments are proceeding with greater caution than might be generally assumed.

The first of these messages, Madrid sources said, was a personal communication from President Nasser to General Franco outlining what Cairo considers its legal rights in blockading the Gulf of Aqaba.

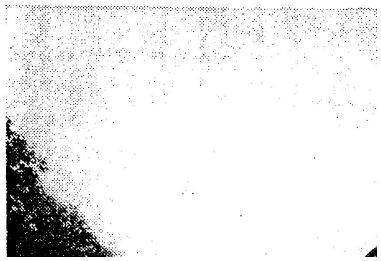
Syria's message, according to informants, sought the good offices of the Spanish Government in conveying to the United States the hope that Israel would be dissuaded from military action.

This message, it was said here, was handed to Mr. Dean Rusk, the American Secretary of State, by the Marquis Merry del Val, the Spanish Ambassador to the United States, last Sunday. Spanish experts on Middle Eastern affairs were inclined to assume that the secret Syrian message was designed to hint to the United States that the Arab States—or, at least, Damascus—were hopeful of a peaceful solution to the crisis.—*New York Times N.S.*

Moscow, May 30.—Dr. Nureddin al Atassi, the Syrian head of state, left Moscow today after 24 hours of talks with Soviet leaders.—*Reuter.*

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Arab lawyers say Cairo has a case.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, May 31, 1967; pg. 7; Issue 56955.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS117664959

THE FIRST TWO WEEKS

It would be a useful self-denying ordinance if nobody in today's Commons debate on the Middle East mentioned the word Suez. Of course what happened eleven years ago has a lot of bearing on what is happening now, but party recrimination has not. The present extremely dangerous situation cannot be assessed in terms of former policies and personalities.

The position now is that after a fortnight of war talk and mobilization peace still holds. There are a number of reasons for this. First, a remarkable degree of discipline and restraint on the part of the Israelis. Second, continuous pressure from Washington—which naturally is a big element in Israel's restraint. Third, the comfortable feeling on the Arabs' side that they are getting almost all they want without having to fight for it. But though the indications are that this formal peace will not be broken in the next few days, there is absolutely no certainty. There are hawks and doves in all the capitals concerned.

Tel Aviv is still the most explosive of them. Israel is geared militarily and emotionally to a high pitch. If there is no war the country will have suffered a stinging political defeat and severe economic losses. Nothing America or anyone else can do will compensate for the sense there of anticlimax and missed opportunities. The knowledge that the Arabs have been needling Israel into shooting first need not deter the Israeli hawks, who can still make out a good case for action.

On the Arab side it is, as always, difficult to disentangle jingo talk from genuine threats. There are plenty of Arabs who believe their own propaganda and think that they have Israel at their mercy, and that if they blotted their enemy out the rest of the world would do nothing and even applaud. But at the moment the only Arab who counts is PRESIDENT NASSER. He is the man to whom KOSYGIN and DE GAULLE send messages, whom U THANT negotiates with. All that other Arab leaders can do is to join his bandwagon. Hence the showy gestures of support—Kuwaiti troops turning up in Egypt, for example, and a hastily contrived defence pact with Jordan. Egypt has no military need for any of these, but they are all credit on NASSER'S account which he will be able to cash later, whatever happens.

In this exceptionally strong position, will he feel any need to make even a token nod to his critics (his sworn foes, as he would call them) or the U.N.? Present indications are that he will not, at any rate in the Gulf of Aqaba, where his recent triumphs and the immediate dangers lie. But as long as the danger of war persists he can always make a small concession look important.

The fundamental question, to which Britain and all the other powers concerned must address themselves, is whether any use can be made of the peace, if it continues to hold. NASSER and the Arabs say that what has to be settled now is who owns Palestine. They have always said this, but have done nothing, knowing that America and others would not permit the physical destruction of Israel. If they think that this implicit guarantee is no longer effective, either because it cannot be fulfilled or because the Russians have undermined it, then an unlimited war could start at any time.

As always, the crux of the matter is understanding between America and Russia, not just to take the heat out of this particular crisis but to prevent it being followed by more and worse ones. If in fact PRESIDENT JOHNSON has halted bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong this is a big step in the right direction, for the fate of the Middle East could be decided in Vietnam. But the passage of Russian warships through the Straits would be an act of escalation nullifying, to say the least, the American move.

The First Two Weeks.
The Times (London, England),Wednesday, May 31, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56955.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS184904895

Letters to the Editor

ISRAEL AND THE ARABS

DANGER FROM NUCLEAR WEAPONS

From Mr. Alastair Buchan

Sir,—In the discussion on the present crisis in the Middle East I find one element neglected. Israel is farther along the road to becoming a military nuclear power, albeit on a small scale, than any other state in the area. And the problem of the means of delivery, which may inhibit other countries from "going nuclear", is of less significance owing to the short ranges between vital targets in this area than in any other part of the world.

If the outcome of the present crisis were to convince Israel that the major powers cannot or will not take the risks involved in supporting her interests and integrity against external interference—if, for instance, the Tiran straits remain subject to unilateral control by Egypt—then the incentives for Israel to introduce an element of strategic deterrence into a traditional policy of territorial defence will be overwhelming.

The hitherto restraining voices in Tel Aviv will be silenced. Israel, it should be noted, might not need to break the 1963 Test Ban Treaty to become an operational nuclear power. She has natural underground test areas in the Negev, and might in any case calculate that the mere rumour that she possessed an operational nuclear device would be sufficient to deter trouble from her neighbours in future.

Thus the present crisis could easily invalidate the prospects for a non-proliferation treaty before negotiations on it at Geneva are anywhere near complete. Consequently, it casts a long shadow over the relations of the nuclear powers themselves, as well as the local powers, and may be the last opportunity which the former, especially the Soviet Union, will have to demonstrate that they subordinate their local opportunism to their broader objectives.

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR BUCHAN.
Waterloo House, Brill, Buckinghamshire, May 30.

Implications for Aden

From Lord Lambton, Conservative M.P. for Berwick upon Tweed

Sir,—Six weeks ago I expressed in your columns the extraordinary dangers of the Government attempting to follow a Middle Eastern policy which ignored the existence of Israel (May 15).

Events of the past few days have shown the folly of such an omission while the rest of our Middle Eastern policy which had been made dependent upon the good will of Nasser has collapsed. Should not consideration therefore be given to changing our attitude towards the Aden Federation?

The viability of the new state must depend upon the good will of Nasser and the strength of the United Nations, two frail foundations for success. Otherwise the possibility exists that Nasser balked of his object in Israel but the hero of the Arab world will turn his attention south to where the present Government are busy creating a vacuum for him to fill.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
your obedient servant,
LAMBTON.
58 Hamilton Terrace, N.W.8.

President Nasser's claims

From Colonel G. I. A. D. Draper

Sir,—Your editorial today shows a regrettable deterioration in detachment from your earlier editorial entitled "Law and the Gulf" (May 27). This is, I fear, a symptom of the mounting international tension and national passions, and the inevitable replacement of light by heat.

Neither Israel nor the U.A.R. has much cause to be proud of its respective record in international accommodation since 1948. Veracity and restraint have not been evident on either side. President Nasser's current policies are not designed to ease the existing difficulties in international living and some of his recent public utterances have only a modest connexion with the facts.

That much being said, it is idle and stupid to assume that the U.A.R.'s legal claims are necessarily devoid of merit, even though President Nasser may not have formulated them with the care and precision of a jurist before the International Court of Justice. In fact, if not in law, the U.A.R. and Israel have been in hostile relationship since 1949. Both states are probably in a permanent posture of self-defence in relation to each other. Their departures from legality are marked when either of them takes action, even within the limits of the Law of War, which is unreasonable in nature and excessive in kind, having regard to the gravity of the specific danger with which either of them is faced, at any one moment, by the action of the other. To talk of the automatic applicability or non-applicability of the "state of war", maritime belligerent rights, or the Law of War, is not, in 1967, properly apposite

You, Sir, have pointed out, rightly, that the U.A.R. is not a party to the Geneva Territorial Sea Convention of 1958. I would add that the provision to which you drew attention (Art. 16 (4)), dealing with "straits which are used for international navigation", is clearly not a codifying provision; in its present terms it was an innovation. Even if it were applicable to the U.A.R., its own terms are limited to prohibiting "suspension of the innocent passage of a foreign ship" through such straits. The carrying of strategical supplies by ship to the Israel port of Eilat at the head of the Aqaba Gulf, through the Strait of Tiran, via the "Enterprise Passage" not wider than three miles from the Sinai coast of the U.A.R., cannot in all conscience be considered as "not prejudicial to the peace, good order or security of the coastal state" (U.A.R.). That is the Convention's definition of "innocent passage" (Art. 14 (4)).

It would also seem to have escaped your attention, Sir, that the U.A.R. is exercising a Prize jurisdiction, a right limited to maritime belligerents. The decisions of its Prize Court are regularly reported in our own *International Law Reports*; see Vol. 31 (1966), pp. 509, 519.

As to President Nasser's demand that Unef quit its position in the Gaza strip and at Sharm al-Shaikh, it would seem that Secretary-General U Thant correctly adopted the legal position that no United Nations "presence" on U.A.R. soil was supportable once that state had called for its removal. In withdrawing the United Nations force the Secretary-General was merely endorsing, by his action, Resolution 395 of November 7, 1956, adopted by the General Assembly, the parent of Unef. In that resolution the Assembly accepted the principle that it could not request "the Force to be stationed or operate in the territory of a given country without the consent of the government of that country".

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
G. I. A. D. DRAPER.
10 Delahay House, 15 Chelsea Embankment, S.W.3, May 29.

'The only sensible question'

From Mr. Philip Toynbee

Sir,—Everyone should be aware by now that endless arguments can proliferate about the origins of the Israel-Arab conflict and the legal rights and wrongs of various demarcation-lines and frontiers. In these terms there is much—indeed an infinite amount—to be said for both sides.

But in the present crisis the only sensible question to ask is this: what are the respective aims of Israel and the Arab states? Israel wishes to maintain her 1957-1967 frontiers. President Nasser has reaffirmed that the Arab intention is what it has always been—namely, to "destroy Israel". Whether this means that the Arabs intend to massacre every Israeli or whether they intend only to enforce the exodus of the whole Israeli population, these aims are wicked, mad and insupportable.

Israel must be supported now if only because the maintenance of the state of Israel involves not one-thousandth part of the suffering which would be involved if the Arabs were to win a war. The Arab states are potentially rich and prosperous. The assimilation of their carefully-preserved Palestinian refugees presents no real problem. And the alternative is unthinkable.

Yours, &c.,
PHILIP TOYNBEE.
Barn House, Brockweir, near Chepstow.

A policy of revenge

From Mr. Martin Rudner

Sir,—According to Middle East correspondents of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, the ultimate justification for President Nasser's blockade of the Strait of Tiran against Israeli shipping lies on the claim that Eilat port was seized by Israeli forces some two weeks after conclusion of the Israel-Egypt Armistice Agreement. Hence, it is asserted, the U.A.R. action merely counters a past, forgotten, Israeli "aggression".

What this argument itself forgets is that the Southern Negev, including Eilat, was assigned to the Jewish State (i.e., Israel) by the United Nations Resolution for the Partition of Palestine. At no time during the Arab-Israeli conflict of 1948-49 did the Egyptian Army establish itself in this territory, nor was there an indigenous Arab population located therein. The only military activity in this region was initiated by Jordanians, not Egyptians, who set up a blocking force on the road halfway between Beersheba and what is now Eilat to prevent Israeli access to the Southern Negev, notwithstanding the partition accord.

After conclusion of the Israel-Egypt Armistice, but *before* signing the Armistice with Jordan, Israel dispatched a small military force southwards with instructions to avoid contact with the Jordanian roadblock, to raise the Israeli flag at the Gulf of Aqaba. This was done successfully and the Southern Negev was included within the territory of State of Israel. Only *after* the establishment of Israel authority at Eilat was the Israel-Jordan Armistice Agreement signed. There was not then, and nor is there now, any question of Egyptian claim to the Southern Negev or Eilat shore.

Subsequent Egyptian efforts at blockading the Gulf of Aqaba to Israeli shipping, effectively stifling development of Eilat port, must be understood instead as a strategic instrument of Cairo's policy of revenge against the State of Israel—no more, no less.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN RUDNER
63 Summerton House, 369 Banbury Road, Oxford, May 28.

Job for the carrier

From Captain R. G. Tosswill, R.N. (Retd.)

Sir,—It is of interest to note that, in the present situation, there appears to be a requirement for the aircraft carrier.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. TOSSWILL.
Lutyens House, Thursley, Surrey, May 28.

Israel And The Arabs.
ALASTAIR BUCHAN. Waterloo House, Brill, Buckinghamshire, May 30, LAMBTON. 58 Hamilton Terrace, N.W.8, G. I. A. D. DRAPER. 10 Delahay House, 15 Chelsea Embankment, S.W.3, May 29, PHILIP TOYNBEE. Barn House, Brockweir, near Chepstow, MARTIN RUDNER and R. G. TOSSWILL. Lutyens House, Thursley, Surrey, May 28.

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, May 31, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56955.

Category: Letters to the Editor

Gale Document Number:CS185560255

Egypt to buy U K tractors

By NICHOLAS TRAVERS

Egypt is on the verge of signing a deal for £1m. worth of British tractors, loaders and engines. The contract has already been verbally approved, and written confirmation is expected to follow very shortly.

Other British firms, including Powell Duffryn and Bridge Cranes, are also negotiating for further orders worth between £2m. and £3m. connected with the development of the Magara coalfields and new works at the port of Alexandria.

The tractor deal is being financed by the Tennant Guaranty Company, and indicates that the U.A.R. will not allow current political storms to affect business relations with Britain.

Trade between the two countries has been almost at a standstill since Egypt nationalized all British-owned concerns in 1963, though previously it had built up from nothing after Suez to £30m. a year.

Currently Egypt trades extensively with the Iron Curtain countries—nearly 10,000 tons of wheat reached Port Said from Russia earlier this week.

Egypt to buy UK tractors.
By NICHOLAS TRAVERS

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, May 31, 1967; pg. 19; Issue 56955.

Category: Business and Finance

Gale Document Number:CS320302271

Order to Cyprus garrison

By Our Diplomatic Staff

British forces in Cyprus have been ordered to cancel all plans to go on leave to the Middle East. This follows logically from the Foreign Office advice to all British subjects to avoid Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said yesterday that there was no general alert in Cyprus nor cancellation of leave.

The Cyprus and Malta Government have not so far communicated to the British Government their views on the possible use of the British bases on their islands during the crisis, but both President Makarios, who has close relations with President Nasser, and Dr. Borg Olivier, Malta's Prime Minister, have said they would refuse Britain permission to use the bases against Arab countries.

In Britain's view she is not bound to consult Cyprus at all about using the bases, which remain British sovereign territory, and the defence agreement with Malta allows her virtually a free hand. The political difficulties of using the bases against the wishes of the host Governments are obvious enough, however.

Order to Cyprus garrison.
By Our Diplomatic Staff

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 01, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56956.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS168258753

Iraq contingent arrives at front: Algerians follow

From NICHOLAS HERBERT—Beirut, May 31

The first contingent of Iraq troops ever to serve in Egypt arrived today to join their fellow Arabs on the front line, and further units were expected in Jordan soon.

An expeditionary force of Algerian land sea and air detachments, perhaps the best tried of all Arab forces, was being prepared for immediate dispatch to the front.

For Anglo-Arab relations the outlook could only be described tonight as gloomy. First reports of Mr. Brown's speech in the House of Commons brought no sense of relief to those who hope that a second clash between Britain and the Arab world in a dozen years can be avoided.

Deprived of fruits of aggression

On the contrary, Mr. Brown's choice of where to stand his ground seemed to augur ill. The prevailing view here is that the closing of the Gulf of Aqaba deprives Israel of the fruits of aggression in 1956, and there is little comprehension of the west's preoccupation with internationalizing a stretch of water which it allowed to remain closed to Israel shipping for eight years.

Arabs can scarcely be expected to acquiesce in a secret agreement between General Eisenhower and Mr. Ben-Gurion, whatever its terms may have been, and they question whether Britain should do so either.

Message for General de Gaulle

Dr. Ibrahim Makhos, the Syrian Foreign Minister, left for Paris today with a message for General de Gaulle which was officially described as dealing with "Anglo-American-Zionist plans for wide-scale aggression against the Arab people". The phrase, though typically overdrawn, is presumably designed to appeal to the general's distrust of Anglo-Saxons, but similar Syrian efforts in the past have been coolly received.

This was particularly noticeable when Dr. Makhos last went to Paris during the crisis over the Iraq Petroleum Company's oil pipeline royalties, and there is no particular reason to suppose that he will be any more successful this time. After Paris, Dr. Makhos will go to Algiers for talks with the Algerian Prime Minister.

He had left Damascus before the arrival of Dr. Zakaria Mohieddin, an Egyptian Vice-President, who set off from Cairo this morning, paid a quick visit to Baghdad, and planned an equally short stay in Syria.

His mission was assumed to be connected with the Egypt-Jordan defence agreement, which has been widely acclaimed in many Arab countries but not in Syria. By early evening, the state-controlled press and radio in Damascus had not even mentioned it and was still denouncing both Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Amman approval for agreement

In Amman, the agreement was unanimously approved by a joint meeting of both Houses of Parliament and the Foreign Minister, Dr. Toukan, was planning to fly to Cairo soon with the instruments of ratification. A mimic air raid was held and the film *Khartoum* was banned on the ground that it discredited Arabs generally and Egyptian rule in the Sudan particularly.

King Hassan of Morocco proposed an urgent Arab summit to take the necessary collective action against aggression.

Iraq contingent arrives at front: Algerians follow.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 01, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56956.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS168389825

TIMES PAST

THE TIMES

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THE DANGER OF THE GULF

When the FOREIGN SECRETARY said in the Commons yesterday that there was no question of trying to topple NASSER, but that NASSER could not be allowed the right to topple Israel, he reflected the broad national view of the present crisis. Even people who find NASSER's behaviour reckless and aggressive admit that he is a chief agent in the situation who must be dealt with as such. Equally the idea of Israel's being obliterated is intolerable. The picture painted at this moment by the Arabs is of all of them, from Morocco to the Persian Gulf, closing in for the kill. It is not in these terms that the crisis began, nor must it be in that way that it ends.

The immediate danger is still, as MR. BROWN said, the Gulf of Aqaba. He gave a clear undertaking that "any unilateral act" to close the gulf would be regarded as a belligerent act, as would "any acts of aggression committed on either side of the Israel-Arab border". The PRIME MINISTER'S language was even more carefully chosen. Sooner or later—and the Israelis insist that it must be sooner—the implications of this pledge, with which the Americans and possibly others are associated, seem bound to be put to the test. Presumably it means that if a British or American ship trying to enter the gulf were stopped by force, force would have to be used in its support. Presumably it must apply too to ships of other nations, including Israel, though there have already been reports of an American-owned tanker being turned back. Presumably also it must mean that if the Israelis fire the first shot they take on the responsibility of aggression, and lose the diplomatic support they now rely on.

As NASSER has said emphatically that there can be no yielding in the gulf, and that Israel ships or ships carrying strategic goods for Israel will not be allowed in, a clash seems inevitable. It has been delayed because the maritime powers have been trying to concert action. This will not be easy. All trading nations have a natural interest in keeping shipping lanes open, but only a few of them have the strength to enforce their rights. It is tempting for them to leave action to America and Britain, hoping thereby to remain politically uncommitted. Even if the British Government gets the clear declaration it is hoping for—that the gulf of Aqaba is an international waterway —this will not do much to spread responsibility. The decision would still rest with Britain and America on one side; Egypt and Russia on the other.

The only way to avoid a collision is to get the two essential parts of peace-keeping machinery—the United Nations and Russia—functioning effectively. MR. WILSON accepted the sincerity of Russia's restraining influence. What is needed now is some public Russian declaration that peace in the Middle East is of universal concern, and that peace cannot include the destruction of one Middle Eastern state. It may be that some sort of unofficial four-power conference in New York could arrive at this conclusion, but it would have been infinitely more valuable in the open.

As for the United Nations, there seems little chance of anything developing there unless Russia is much more forthcoming. Of course a return of United Nations forces to the area would be the best solution—and the Israelis may be regretting the miscalculation which made them refuse to allow the United Nations on their side of the border ten years ago. But this is longer term. U THANT'S immediate concern must be progressive demobilization, in the Gulf of Aqaba and on all the other embattled borders.

The Danger Of The Gulf.
The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 01, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56956.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS184773825

The Commons: Reflections on safety: forces in Aden

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 10 a.m.

MR. SWINGLER, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Transport (Newcastle under Lyme, Lab.), moved the second reading of the Road Transport Lighting Bill.

Under the Bill, he said, the Minister intended to make the use of reflective number plates permissible. It was not intended at this stage to make them compulsory but their effect on road accidents would be watched. There was also a possibility that certain vehicles would be required to carry conspicuous marking involving the use of reflective material.

The Bill was read a second time.

The Anchors and Chain Cables Bill was discussed on second reading and adjourned.

The sitting was suspended at 1 p.m. until 2.30 p.m.

Relevant factors

The London Transport (No. 2) Bill was read the third time.

MR. MARTEN (Surbiton, C.) asked the Secretary of State for Defence for a statement about the latest plans for withdrawing from Aden.

MR. HEALEY (Leeds, East Lab.).—There is no change in our plan to withdraw from the Aden base when South Arabia achieves independence. British families are now coming home and we have begun to run down our stocks.

MR. MARTEN.—In the light of current events in the Middle East, and Russia's open support of Egypt, will the Secretary of State not consider a defence agreement whereby British forces remain in Aden for a minimum period after independence ? (Opposition cheers.)

MR. HEALEY.—I fail to see how what happens in May this year 1,000 miles north of Aden could affect our plans and what we intend to do in Aden next year. (Opposition cries of "Oh.")

MR. POWELL (Wolverhampton, South-West, C.).—Is the Secretary of State saying that in the Government's view the possibility of hostilities at the north-end of the Red Sea and the presence of British forces in South Arabia is irrelevant ? (Opposition cheers.)

MR. HEALEY.—I said that a crisis in the middle of 1967 is not relevant to what we may do in 1968. (Opposition cries of "Oh.")

The Commons:.
The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 01, 1967; pg. 16; Issue 56956.

Category: Politics and Parliament

Gale Document Number:CS268922049

British move for shipping rights in Gulf of Aqaba: lines for U N action

On the motion for the adjournment.

MR. GEORGE BROWN, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Belper, Lab.), initiating a debate on the Middle East, said the political, economic, and strategic interests of too many countries were involved in the Middle East for it to be other than extremely difficult for a war which ever got started in that area to be confined to the countries immediately concerned.

The greater risk of war which they faced stemmed not so much from any increased enmity between Israel and the Arab states, bad though that was, and not so much from the failure of the United Nations by precipitously withdrawing the United Nations force, but from the fact that into this area over quite some time there had been pouring vast quantities of guns, armour, and aircraft, not for the purposes of local conflicts within the area but for changing the global balance of power. Although they were talking mainly about the Arab-Israel dispute and ways of preventing that from flaring up, it would be a bold man who would say that just to settle this problem would remove the continuing risks of war in that area.

Early in April Israel attacked Syrian offensive positions from the air. In purely military terms this action appeared to be successful, but the danger of escalation was patent.

During this period the U.A.R., in spite of the fact that it came under attack from other Arab states, nevertheless acted with restraint. About the middle of May Israeli leaders spoke strongly about the latest incursion from Syria and warned that they could not tolerate them.

It became widely, but according to our information, erroneously believed that some large scale attack was imminent. It was then that the Government of the U.A.R. started to take large and ostentatious military precautions. On May 16 they took the grave step of demanding the withdrawal of the United Nations military force.

One could sympathize with the Secretary General confronted with the demand, but it could not be right when a fire was known to be imminent to remove the fire brigade. (Cheers.)

Strait closed to ships

There were wider implications. Even if the U.N.E.F. had not been the sole reason for the relative quiet of the last 10 years it had played a large part in it. It had shown what could be done by the United Nations in peace-keeping. The removal of the force was bound to cast doubts on the credibility of their efforts elsewhere and thereby risk intensifying other problems, other tensions, in other parts of the world.

Nevertheless the decision was taken. The Secretary General decided, without consulting with the appropriate organs of the United Nations, that he did accept the withdrawal of the force. This action clearly altered the whole situation in a very important and material respect.

Having achieved this, possibly with unexpected ease, President Nasser announced on May 22, following the removal of the detachment from Sharm esh Sheikh, that his Government intended to close the Strait of Tiran to Israel ships and the carriage of goods to Israel.

There were two aspects to this. Israel had declared as long ago as 1957 that it would regard interference with its shipping as an aggressive act entitling it to take defensive action. There was a wider aspect. It was not a matter which concerned only Israel and the U.A.R. directly, but all maritime nations interested in the unfettered movement of peaceful shipping to all parts of the world.

This was not just an arguable legal matter but carried great political and economic consequences. Its repercussions affected the rights of navigation to many parts of the world, including some of the maritime exits of the Soviet Union.

I went to Moscow at that time (he said) and during my talks with Russian leaders I was convinced that the Soviet Government, in spite of their public statements and one-sided approach, were very concerned about the Middle East situation and anxious to help prevent it getting out of hand.

I made clear to them the importance we attached to the taking of immediate steps to get restraint observed by those in the area, and the need to use any time thus gained to find an acceptable solution to the problems created, especially to navigation in the Gulf of Aqaba.

No attempt to 'topple Nasser'

There were two persistent features of the situation in the Middle East which threatened peaceful and orderly development. They were the bitter hostility of the Arabs towards Israel, and the deep-seated division in the Arab world. The Government deplored these conflicts, and had no wish to take sides in them.

The Government desired to develop its relations with Arab countries, whatever their political complexions.

He recognized that Arab nationalism was one of the most significant forces for change in the Middle East. He had sought to make an ally of it in South Arabia, and in spite of the set-backs he would continue to strive for it. But equally he recognized that no one party, nor one country, nor group of countries, had a monopoly of Arab nationalism. It was at least as strong a driving force for those who sought peaceful change as it was for those who sought to pursue their means by methods of violence.

We must not fall into the trap (he said) of regarding ourselves, or allowing others to regard our Middle East policy as a struggle to the death between ourselves and President Nasser. I got to know President Nasser over a long period and I have a high regard for him. At the same time I am not blind to his errors. I believe that he has long been following a profoundly wrong course in South Arabia.

I believe that in the last two weeks he has rashly adopted a policy which could endanger not only himself and his country but the peace of the whole world.

We are not setting out, to use a colloquial phrase, " to topple Nasser ", as Conservative members once foolishly attempted to do. Nor are we prepared to accept that he has the right to topple another middle Eastern nation at the risk of plunging us all into war.

Our aim must be to prevent the confrontations which now exist bursting into conflagration, and in turn to seek with others a negotiated settlement achieved by peaceful means.

Every diplomatic effort

There were many possible solutions by which the Gulf of Aqaba might be kept open on terms which both Israel and Egypt could reasonably be asked to accept. Any solution must certainly also satisfy Britain's own interests and those of other maritime nations concerned with the freedom of shipping in those seas.

He was under no illusions about the difficulties either of maintaining the peace or of achieving a just, equitable settlement. Nor must they necessarily confine their efforts to achieve it to only one forum. They must pursue their objective by every diplomatic means available to them.

Clearly the most appropriate, and ultimately, were it available, the best way to work for this settlement, would be within the machinery of the United Nations.

In the Middle East the men of the United Nations emergency force had made a real contribution towards preserving peace for nearly a decade. Their sudden removal symbolized the crisis that had so suddenly occurred. It was a sharp blow to the United Nations and to international law and order. The removal of that force at the moment when it was most needed was one of the most serious aspects of this whole business.

The United Nations could play a tremendous role in peacekeeping. Until its members could agree among themselves how this was to be done—here the Security Council had an absolutely vital part to play—the rule of law in the world would be gravely jeopardized.

Conciliation by UN

Britain welcomed the initiative of U Thant in going to Cairo. His report directed attention to all the dangers of the present situation, including the explosive position in the Gulf. It made various proposals for remedies. What was most needed now was a breathing space to enable these proposals to be fully considered and to enable the United Nations to exercise its unique role as a conciliator.

In this moderating role it must urge conciliation on the Egyptians and on the Israelis. It was to gain this breathing space that Lord Caradon and others were working so hard to get support for some resolution in the Security Council that would urge restraint and conciliation.

The Secretary General had referred in his report to the need for all concerned " to exercise special restraint, to forego belligerence, and to avoid all other actions which could increase tension ".

We will consider as acts of belligerence (Mr. Brown said) any unilateral act to close the Gulf of Aqaba or any acts of aggression committed by either side on the Israel-Arab border .

The main task of the United Nations was to work hard to reduce tension on both sides and, if possible, to secure a reduction in the forces which had now gathered on all the frontiers. Once this conciliation and thinning-out process got under way there would be an urgent need for some new kind of United Nations presence which would help to keep the two sides apart, as Unef had done during the last 10 years.

Such a United Nations presence might take many forms. It could grow out of the United Nations truce supervisory organization, which played an important role on the Egypt-Israel frontier before it was succeeded by Unef; or it might be some entirely new body.

Whatever organization emerged, the Secretary General should in any case send his personal representative to the area to help with the task of conciliation. He hoped that U Thant would be able to find someone of real political stature and experience to carry out this very difficult task.

Both sides of frontier

He was also sure that the responsibilities of any new United Nations body should extend to both sides of the frontier, so as to be to that extent independent of any one of the countries concerned. The Israelis had unwisely rejected this in the past. The British Government had made their view inescapably clear to them in the last few days.

These (he said) are the kind of directions in which we think the United Nations must continue to work. Our policy is to work at the United Nations and through the United Nations. But the United Nations is, at the end of the day, only the sum of its members. There are clear limitations on it at this moment.

We could not, speaking for ourselves, be satisfied with a situation in which a numerical majority in New York are satisfied with an inequitable settlement which will merely ensure that an Arab-Israeli war is inevitable sooner or later.

Therefore, we have no alternative but our diplomatic activity to New York. We have also been in touch, both directly and through our ambassadors, with other governments in their own capitals.

Although we should not make the mistake of assuming that there are not other grave danger spots which could spark off a war, nevertheless the centre of the present crisis seems pretty clearly to be the Gulf of Aqaba.

The immediate crucial problem is freedom of navigation there. We are therefore in the closest touch with other maritime countries which share with us a vital interest in the freedom of the seas.

We have explained our own position to these other governments. This is still, as it was in 1957, that the Strait of Tiran must be regarded as an international waterway in which the vessels of all nations have a right of passage.

Maritime nations claim free passage

The British Government would assert this right on behalf of all British shipping, and was prepared to join with others to secure a general recognition of this right. The Government's recent diplomatic exchanges had shown that many other countries now, as in 1957, shared Britain's view on this right of free passage.

We are now discussing with them (he said) what we and they can do together to assert this right and to secure this general recognition. Lord Caradon has already publicly stated our position in the Security Council, but we cannot be sure that the council will be able to agree on a clear and unequivocal statement of the position as we and others see it.

We have therefore decided to consult with other like-minded nations about the issuing of a clear declaration by the international maritime community that the Gulf of Aqaba is an international waterway into which and through which the vessels of all nations have a right of passage. (Ministerial cheers.)

Such a declaration, whether in an outside or a United Nations forum —preferable as the latter would be —would, I believe, have a substantive part to play in maintaining and prolonging the restraint which at present enables peace to be held in the area.

By so doing it would give us the extra time to try to find the longer-term solutions about the use of the Gulf—including possibly a special convention enshrining its status, as applies to some other international waterways.

But we must face the fact that action in the United Nations, or declarations made by nations outside the United Nations, may not be enough to secure the right of innocent passage to which we and all maritime nations attach such importance.

Close to the brink

It goes without saying that we certainly hope that they will. I trust that it also goes without saying that we shall use every diplomatic effort to see that they do. But we would be failing in our duty if we were not now consulting with others concerned about the situation that would arise if these initiatives were to fail.

During the last week, while the House was in recess, the Middle East moved close to the brink of war. Only those of us who were involved deeply in the events of last weekend know how close we came to seeing acts of war, from which the waves of destruction might have spread out to engulf us all. Through the efforts of several countries, including, I am proud to say, our own, this horror was averted.

But although none of the countries of the Middle East has yet stepped over the brink, the abyss remains. Time is desperately short. Unless the international community shoulders fully its responsibilities and asserts itself to secure quickly a just and equitable settlement, a crisis more grave and threatening will inevitably be upon us. To avert this I pledge the untiring diplomatic efforts of this country. (Cheers.)

Judging a settlement

MR. HEATH (Bexley, C.) said the Foreign Secretary had made an important statement that any attempt to block the Straits would be a belligerent act. One of the problems in the Middle East was always the definition of " aggression ".

As I understood him, the Foreign Secretary said that the Government would not be able to accept a majority at New York in the United Nations which meant an inequitable settlement. It must be the judgment of the Government whether a settlement is inequitable or whether a resolution is inequitable, and therefore in certain circumstances the Government would find themselves having to reject such a settlement, which would presumably mean the use of the veto or a decision not to carry out a resolution of the United Nations.

This is a very important statement. It may well prove to be justified, but if it is possible in the present situation I would like the Prime Minister to amplify the statement.

MR. G. BROWN.—The words I used were: " We could not be satisfied with a situation in which a numerical majority are satisfied ", &c., &c. That means that if such a situation were to come about we would have to find ways and means of trying to improve upon it. That is different from the words the right hon. gentleman has used, which said that we could not accept, &c.

MR. HEATH.—This is an important statement from which serious consequences could follow. When the Foreign Secretary says " &c., &c. ", he is presumably referring to an inequitable settlement and therefore, if the judgment of the Government were that the settlement was not just, they would have to take further action in order to bring about a just settlement.

Another danger which they could not ignore was that President Nasser and the Arab countries would come to believe that, having got rid of the United Nations force, completed their own build-up—now very substantial—secured Soviet support, in public at any rate, and with Great Britain apparently in the process of withdrawing from certain Middle East commitments, and the United States preoccupied in South-East Asia, this was the moment when they should finally attempt to liquidate the State of Israel from the Middle East.

What was the motification for the withdrawal of the United Nations forces ? This was a most extraordinary incident. Having studied the resolution and aide-memoire he was not entirely convinced that it was necessary to withdraw the force.

Even if it had been necessary how could it have been right to accede to this withdrawal straight away without taking it to the Security Council or the Assembly. It was, I fear, a major error of judgment.

The withdrawal exposed the Middle East to much greater risk of conflict, and undermined the confidence of Israel which for 10 years had been brought to believe that the United Nations was its main security.

It had given President Nasser an increase in prestige, and other Arab states had had to make adjustments in their policy—the King of Jordan for example, in what was really an attempt to save his throne, had had to make a defence agreement which would give the U.A.R. much greater influence in Jordan.

It was in the interests of Britain to have good relations with both the Arab countries and Israel. He could not accept that it must be a choice between one and the other. Britain had worked closely with Arab countries and had also helped to create Israel. Nor had he ever believed it was impossible to establish reasonable relations with Nasser and the U.A.R. British interests and U.A.R. interests were not incompatible.

Power vacuum

In Aden a power vacuum was going to be created, and wherever there was a power vacuum in the Middle East President Nasser had no alternative but to step in. Aden was now the weak link in the Government's policy in the Middle East, and in trying to establish reasonable relations. The same thing could have been done in Aden as was done in Kuwait, with whom Britain negotiated as agreements.

Britain as a maritime power had an interest, together with the other maritime powers, in the freedom of navigation . Freedom of access to the Gulf of Aqaba had been maintained by the United Nations. It must surely believe in freedom of access, and they were entitled to look to the United Nations to reinstitute it.

What steps were to be taken by the maritime powers to assert their rights was the key to the question. There must be no delay, and the House looked to the Government to take the necessary action to ensure that a declaration on this could be implemented if it was necessary to do so.

Peace precarious

Peace at the moment was precarious, and could be short-lived. It would only last for a limited time. Restraint would only be exercised in the Middle East for a limited time unless results could be produced.

There had to be a negotiated answer to the Strait of Tiran. It the United Nations Security Council did not produce solutions, what then ? It might well be that although there could not be a formal four-power conference, there could be informal discussions between the four major powers in an attempt to get a settlement of the Middle East problem.

It might well be that the French had a particular part to play in it, but certainly the British Government ought also to be able to play their part. It was possible that the Soviet Union would see the danger of conflict from forces which were outside their own control and that therefore they would want a negotiated settlement.

Perhaps the right course was to try to lift the problem from the immediate although important detailed questions of the Strait of Tiran and the Gaza Strip up to the higher level of the whole of the Middle East problems between the Arab countries and Israel. It might be that in this way one would stand a better chance of getting a negotiated solution.

It might be right to lift it to the higher level of world problems, and not limit it only to the question of the Middle East. Where the two super powers were concerned, it might be possible to settle more than one of them by taking them together.

Establishing lasting peace

MR. PHILIP NOEL-BAKER (Derby, South, Lab.) said that from the present crisis a real and lasting settlement should be made. It was not enough to patch up a fragile truce: " what was needed was to establish a lasting peace, which meant concessions by Israel and the Arabs.

Mr. Brown should go without delay to the Security Council and invite the Foreign Ministers of other member states to do so. He should make it clear that he would stay there for a week, or two weeks or more—there was nothing so important he could do.

He should ask all parties to state their cases on every matter in dispute, and the council should probe and argue every question brought up. The meetings should be in public.

The council would then do well to adopt the procedure used at the end of the war between the Indonesians and the Dutch in 1948. A U.N. commission should be appointed of distinguished, impartial and experienced statesmen.

Answer to Arab threats

MR. THORPE (North Devon, L.) said that the decision to withdraw the United Nations force was an error of judgment on the part of U Thant.

The action by Nasser could not have occurred without Russian support, and certainly Russian knowledge. Nasser's policy was the one policy which would unite the Arab world.

Although grave threats had been made against Britain and other countries if they went to the assistance of Israel the Arab countries should bear in mind that although to be deprived of Middle Eastern oil would be an economic setback oil could be got from elsewhere, and the Arab world would have to find a continuing supply of customers. Our dependence on Middle Eastern oil now was not what it had been in 1956. A boycott of the Suez Canal by the users would isolate Egypt more than she would wish.

Therefore (he said) the Arab world, whatever the rights and wrongs, should realize that the threats that they are making today against the western world and others are just as grave, if not graver, in their political and economic consequence, for themselves, as for those whom they seek to threaten.

If the Arab world desired to destroy Israel then the rest of the world could not count on Israel's forbearance for more than two or three weeks more. The position of the Eshkol Government would become untenable.

It was vital that there should be swift diplomatic initiative and the position of this country and the United States should be made crystal clear. The longer the delay the weaker the position of Israel became and the stronger the position of the Arab world would become.

There could not be support for a preventive war by Israel, but it must be made equally plain that there could not be a blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba. If this blockade was allowed to continue, within six months there would be an escalation of incidents, creating a much more difficult situation with much greater risk of a preventive war.

Imperialist instrument

MR. WILLIAM GRIFFITHS (Manchester, Exchange, Lab.) said the present crisis was a direct result of the Tories' use of Israel as an aggressive weapon against Egypt in 1956, because it had nourished the convictions of Arab nationalists everywhere that Israel was created as an instrument of imperialism and not as a refuge for Jews. (Opposition cries of dissent.)

They were told that Egypt believed that by the middle of this month there was a serious threat of an Israeli invasion of Syria. The Egyptians believed that mobilized along the Syrian frontier were 13 or 14 brigades. (Labour interruptions.)

Sources in the United Arab Republic said that the Central Intelligence Agency were playing a role there, and that they were encouraging Israel to " have a go " at Syria. He was giving the House the views he gathered during a recent visit to one of the contending parties.

If a new appreciation of President Nasser's role had taken place three years ago even, matched by a rapid military withdrawal on our part, Britain's influence for peace would have been greater today.

Britain should not take sides either with the United States or the Soviet Union, but should display an independent initiative.

Nasser empire building

MR. SANDYS (Streatham, C.) said that he had found in very general agreement with the Foreign Secretary's speech, but on this occasion he did not intend to write him a letter —(laughter). This was not basically a dispute between Arabs and Jews.

Colonel Nasser (he said) is intent on building an Arab empire. Having failed to achieve this on his own he is now trying to ride in on the back of Russia. As for the Russians, they see an opportunity to become the dominant power in the Middle East, and they have found in Nasser the perfect tool for their purpose.

There was no doubt they had won the first round, but the first round was not the last. Having achieved a limited but none the less impressive success, it suited them down to the ground that both sides should now be urged to exercise restraint.

The central objective should be to prevent the outbreak of an Arab-Israeli war—the wider consequences of which could be disastrous for the whole world. Those who agreed must face the fact that if an Arab-Israeli war was to be prevented the blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba must be lifted quickly.

The Jews could not be fooled into believing that the Arab squeeze would end at Aqaba. Nasser had made it painfully clear that his objective was nothing less than to wipe the state of Israel off the map.

Deeply hurt

SIR BARNETT JANNER (Leicester, North-West, Lab.) said the remarks made by Mr. Will Griffiths were " foolish ".

I was deeply hurt (he continued) by what Mr. Griffiths said. He was for many years aware of the truth but because of a petty visit to the tyrant of the Middle East he was persuaded into giving the House opinions which everyone knows are nonsense.

Why did not those M.P.s who saw Nasser tell him of the ter[illegible] territory ?

MR. JAMES DICKENS (Lewisham, West, Lab.).—Our discussions with President Nasser were confidential. We gave our assurance that his confidence would be respected. However, the question just raised was raised by us with President Nasser and vigorously pressed.

I also made the strongest representations in Cairo for the withdrawal of anti-Jewish posters which had appeared in central Cairo and

Israel has a right to live: Mr Wilson

was given by President Nasser a categorical assurance that they would be taken down.

SIR B. JANNER said they could not expect the people of Israel, who have done nothing wrong, to sit for a prolonged period until the pincer movement had got them so entrapped that they could not go on.

VISCOUNT LAMBTON (Berwich upon Tweed, C.) said that in the next few weeks the future of Israel would be decided.

The seeds of even greater violence would almost inevitably live if Israel was forced to declare war on Egypt. The only way to prevent that was to be categoric that the Straits of Aqaba were free to all. If they were, there was hope. If not, there was no hope of avoiding war.

MR. DONNELLY (Pembroke, Lab.) said that unless the western powers were prepared to take action over the Gulf of Aqaba, the Jews would have to and time was running out. The longer the delay, the greater the danger. There had to be caution, but that did not mean inaction. Inaction was as bad as the wrong action.

The House, and so far as he could sense, the country, would support the Government in any determined line they took to ensure that the gulf remained free.

UN first casualty

SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME (Kinross and West Perth, C.) said there might yet be many casualties from the affair. The melancholy fact was that the first casualty had been the United Nations. It would need an immense effort, an almost superhuman effort, to restore the prestige of that organization.

There were two issues to be faced. If no action was taken in the very near future, there would be war between Israel and Egypt at least, and that might spread far and wide in Arabia. In the longer consideration, if there was no action by the United Nations, that organization in the future would be useless in terms.

This was the last chance. He hoped members of the United Nations would recognize that unless the principles and rules of the Charter were applied without fear or favour, then the United Nations would go the way of the League of Nations.

If the communist countries will not cooperate with the free nations (he said) the democracies with the power must take the responsibility. In this particular case, it means accepting the necessity to keep open the Straits of Tiran.

Task for maritime powers

This is a risk, but I believe we have concluded this is a lesser risk for an Arab-Israeli war by reason of the fact that Israel is compelled to break out of the ring.

So far the moves which the Soviet Union had made politically in the Middle East were strictly according to the communist book, which was to attain their political objectives and advantage by subversion, stealth and attrition.

The first thing which should be done was precisely what the Foreign Secretary was trying to do—to get a negotiated settlement. He did not in this context ignore the possibilities that, behind the scenes, the four powers—Russia, the United States, Britain and France—might be able, or ought to at any rate—to come to some agreement. The attempt should be made.

The second move should be to try to get the United Nations force restored to the area and possibly on both sides of the frontier. This was worth considering. But certainly—because this was the centre of the whole problem—authority should be given by the Security Council for a force to keep the Gulf of Aqaba free of mines and to protect international shipping on its lawful occasions.

If the United Nations failed then what was to be done ? There was, in effect, only one alternative — that the maritime powers, inevitably led by the United States and Britain, but he would hope, including Canada, perhaps one of the Scandinavian countries and, for example, the Dutch, would undertake this task.

It would not be possible to press the Prime Minister as to how the gulf and the straits should be kept open. It was not a proper time to do that.

He is going to see Mr. Johnson and Mr. Pearson (he continued) and I hope that, as a result of those visits, not only a firm declaration will be made but a firm declaration that action will be taken. That, I believe, is the only way to save the peace.

Mention had been made of Munich and of Suez. Lessons could be learned from both these events.

I have learned the lesson at least from Munich (he said) that if a dictator gets away with loot, the penalty we pay the second time is double or more.

Sombre and determined

MR. HAROLD WILSON, Prime Minister (Huyton, Lab.), said the debate had inevitably been serious and sombre. It had also been constructive and, he thought, determined. The Foreign Secretary's analysis and interpretation had been widely recognized by the House as fair and judicious.

What we have here (he said) is not conflict but a confrontation; not a breach of peace but a deep and dangerous threat to peace. Nor is it solely Israel and Egypt. Arab states who have been deeply divided on ideological grounds have united against their old enemy, Israel.

In some respects this confrontation has all the dangers and characteristics of a holy war. The characteristic of this situation is the declared aim of one side not to win concessions from the other. Their demand is that Israel should cease to exist—indeed has never existed.

They would continue to pursue peace in Vietnam with all the energy and imagination of which they were capable. Nothing that had happened in the Middle East in the last two or three weeks had made that less urgent. But widening the area of peace-keeping might lead to a delay in dealing with this desperately critical and urgent situation in the Middle East; indeed, it might provide opportunities for delay for those who might welcome them.

Legality not in doubt

The central theme was the threat to the right of innocent passage in the Strait of Tiran.

I feel perhaps (he said) that members who have talked of "reopening the straits" rather than keeping them open—which I think is the right term—could perhaps tend to overstate what is the present position, and thereby perhaps make solution just that little bit more difficult.

It remains our position, and the Government have been encouraged by the very wide support given to it by members in all parts of the House, that it is through the United Nations that in the first instance we shall seek to secure acceptance of the principle that was laid down, and that we shall seek to get effective agreement on the part of all concerned to see that this principle continues to hold good, and that the right of international waterway is maintained

Doubts had been thrown on the question whether there was a legal right of free passage.

The Government, and those who have the duty of advising us, are in no doubt that this is an international waterway, and that the right of free passage for innocent vessels through that waterway does not derive in any sense from the agreement registered by Mr. Hammarskjöld in 1957, or anything said in the General Assembly in that year; that this right is a right inherent in the situation in the strait as part of a wider international agreement.

The Government had been right to consult other maritime nations about the issue of a declaration by the international maritime community that the Gulf of Aqaba was an international waterway and that the Strait of Tiran provided an international waterway through which the vessels of all nations had a right of passage.

If our other diplomatic efforts do not produce the desired results (he said), and should such a declaration as this fail to secure the right of innocent passage to which we and other maritime nations attach such great importance, we would be failing in our duty if we were not consulting with those concerned about the situation which would then arise and what action would be appropriate to ensure that the objective we have in mind is fulfilled.

Effective assertion

The whole world maritime community had agreed that the Gulf of Aqaba constituted an international waterway, and that in conformity with international law, freedom of navigation should be ensured there. It was therefore right that the British Government should be working with the rest of the world maritime community to secure a declaration of the kind to which the Foreign Secretary had referred.

The House will not expect me (he continued) to say more on what we would do, or feel it would be right to do, if action through the Security Council proves ineffective, or the mere issuing of a declaration fails to maintain the freedom of passage through those straits.

All of us here recognize that time is not on our side. I think it is recognized that one of the significant facts which last weekend prevented action being taken, with all the dread consequences that would have followed, has been the assertion of the obvious concern of ourselves and of other maritime nations about the continued right of free passage through this as through other international waterways.

If this concern had not been expressed as clearly as it had been, it was very doubtful whether there would have been sufficient confidence last weekend to have averted what might have become a general conflagration.

Time is not on our side in working out arrangements (he said). We may have a few weeks, even a month or two, and therefore we have a strong sense of urgency, and I believe the House appreciate that sense of urgency. We shall do everything in our power to secure an effective presence and to provide United Nations agency or agencies to help to maintain peace in the area as we have all recognized they did so successfully in the past.

It would be wrong to speculate about the precise nature or precise duties which would be assigned to such a United Nations presence, but certainly it would be right to press that Israel as well as the Arab countries must accept a United Nations presence on their soil as well.

What Mr. Heath and Sir A. Douglas-Home said about the precipitate withdrawal of United Nations forces was absolutely right. He fully supported their criticism of this decision. It could have far-reaching consequences for the United Nations as a whole in the wider sense if it was not possible in a short time to repair the damage that had been done.

Mandate to continue

What had to be sought was not merely how to avoid war but to create the conditions of peace. One condition of a lasting peace must be the recognition that Israel had the right to live. Israel had been for nearly 20 years a member of the United Nations entitled to the respect and protection of the United Nations.

Whatever the bitterness that ruled today there were wise men in Israel and in Arab countries. However difficult it might be, they recognized the need for coexistence and the immense opportunities for peaceful cooperation which existed once man-made barriers based on primaeval hostility could be broken down.

I feel it is right to interpret this debate (he said) as a mandate to the Government by every means in our power to continue, with all who are working with us, in our search for peace, but in a wider sense to use this opportunity today —if opportunity be given—having peered into the abyss, as we have, to turn the threat of a military war into the reality of a total war in the Middle East against man's most ancient enemies of poverty, hunger and disease. (Cheers.)

The House adjourned at 10.0 p.m.

British move for shipping rights in Gulf of Aqaba: lines for UN action.
The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 01, 1967; pg. 16; Issue 56956.

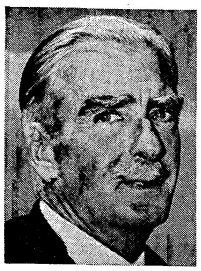
Category: Politics and Parliament

Gale Document Number:CS269184193

US BACKS BRITAIN ON SEA PASSAGE RIGHTS

Middle East crisis revives old closeness of alliance

The United States is backing the initiative taken by Britain to rally support by maritime powers to keep the Gulf of Aqaba open to the world's shipping, the State Department spokesman said in Washington yesterday.



Lord Avon.

When Mr. Wilson arrives in Washington today from Ottawa he will find the Middle East crisis has revived the old relationship between Britain and America. The Prime Minister could not have timed his visit better.

In Jordan, troops reported that they had fired on an Israeli helicopter after it crossed into Jordan's air space yesterday and forced it to turn back to the Israel sector of Jerusalem.

In the Suez Canal two Egyptian submarines were sighted sailing ahead of the American aircraft carrier Intrepid, on her way to the Red Sea.

Peers share Lord Avon's memories

BY PHILIP HOWARD

WESTMINSTER, THURSDAY

"History does or does not repeat itself", said the distinguished voice from the past in the House of Lords this afternoon. This was Lord Avon taking note with the rest of the peers of the situation in the Middle East.

On all sides impended faces from recent history. On the steps of the throne squatted, like a yellowing Victorian group photograph, an impressive muster of the Anthony Eden Government at the time of the Suez crisis—Hogg, arms akimbo, Selwyn Lloyd pensive, Sandys and Birch. On the benches Salisbury, Watkinson, Dilhorne. Up in the gallery sat a covey of "Suez rebels".

Old boys' reunion

It was something like that old boys' reunion, full of nostalgia. At any moment somebody was going to start up "Forty years on when afar and asunder parted are those who are singing today".

But Lord Avon said nothing directly about Suez. The only whisper, which rippled a rustle through the ranks, was "I'll be frank, I don't feel myself that it is 10 years ago; but I feel very much in the thirties at the present time". If we let down Israel, if we did not see that justice was done, if we let a whole people be butchered, we should all suffer as we did after Munich.

The old leader was as dapper as ever—legs propped languidly on the table, profile as handsome, grey hair with elegant wings, discreet flutter of white handkerchief in breast pocket; the same sway to and from the despatch box. He just had to hold his notes a little nearer to his nose than he used to.

The argument was still as firm. The revival of the strident anti-Israel holy war was caused partly by Egypt's desire to escape from the tragedy of Yemen. The Soviet doctrine on the crisis was most extravagant, when "large, thumping Russian warships are at this very moment passing through the Dardanelles". If carried to its logical conclusion, Russia's navy would be bottled in the Gulf of Finland for ever.

The large crowd in the galleries surged out when Lord Avon sat down, with a sigh of suspense relived, of drama averted.

PUTTING PRESSURE ON PRESIDENT NASSER

From LOUIS HEREN, Washington, June 1

Mr. Robert McCloskey, the State Department spokesman, said today that the United States was supporting the British initiative to rally the support of the maritime powers in keeping the Gulf of Aqaba open to international shipping.

He chose to see the proposed declaration as part of the effort to seek a peaceful solution within the United Nations, but other officials said it was part of the Anglo-American plan gradually to increase pressure on President Nasser.

Mr. Wilson arrives here tomorrow from Ottawa, and he will find that the Middle East crisis has revived the old Anglo-American relationship.

Indeed, Mr. Dean Rusk, the Secretary of State, is looking forward to more of what he likes to describe as British-American cooperation. This play on words has a special meaning for the Secretary, who is a loyal defender of the old relationship. It means a partnership in which Britain plays an equal, and perhaps an occasional leading role.

Officials are being discreet about the partnership of course. The suggestion of an Anglo-American initiative is to be avoided for obvious reasons, but time is beginning to run out. Mr. Wilson could not have timed his visit better if Britain is to play a major role.

Nordic nervousness

The United Nations Security Council is not expected to produce a useful resolution, and in accordance with the Anglo-American plan a clear declaration by the maritime powers on free passage through the Strait of Tiran is the next step.

Progress will be reviewed by President Johnson and Mr. Wilson tomorrow, and it appears to be mixed. Holland is ready to go all the way, even to joint naval action, but the Scandinavian countries are apparently nervous.

This dickering is not particularly helpful. The declaration of the maritime powers will almost certainly be followed by financial and economic, as well as political pressure on Cairo. But again there are few people here optimistic enough to believe that President Nasser will yield.

The proposed multilateral force to ensure free passage through the Strait will soon have to be taken one more step beyond the contingency planning stage.

The Defence Department last night said that there was no plan to test the situation in the Strait with the passage of an American ship. That appears to be correct so far as it goes, but the contingency planning calls for a multilateral and not an American naval force.

The possibility of testing the Strait with such a force was discussed today when Vice-President Humphrey and other senior members of the Administration briefed members of the Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees.

Senator Eugene McCarthy afterwards said: "Everyone knows our legal obligations . . . and our moral commitment is much clearer".

Israel problem

Mr. Rusk said that the United States was doing everything it could to avoid war, but clearly there are increasing problems with Israel.

Israel has been persuaded not to take military action for an undefined period, as I understand it for about a month or so. Eleven days have already passed since the strait was closed to Israel shipping, and Mr. Eshkol's Government is already bending under the strain.

President Johnson could probably lean on him a little longer, but the State Department is already worried about future difficulties.

The United States is committed to ensuring Israel's survival, morally and by pressure of internal politics as well as by solemn undertakings. A large degree of certainty has been added to those undertakings by the Israel-American documents which I earlier reported were not in the State Department files.

There can be no question of this but, with Britain, the United States is also determined to secure the recognition, as well as to assert the right of free passage, and the Montreux Convention of 1936 is seen to be the model.

It has been successful in regulating the free passage of all ships through the Bosporus and the Dardanelles, but it recognized Turkish sovereignty. Can Israel be expected to recognize Egyptian sovereignty over the Strait of Tiran?

The question has caused considerable embarrassment. Israel has always insisted that the waters are international, and there are many American statements supporting it.

Egyptians hamper U.S. Consul Page 7
Iraq threat to seize oil companies 7
Parliament 15

U S Backs Britain On Sea Passage Rights.
LOUIS HEREN

The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 02, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56957.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001666

Egypt threat on closing canal

CAIRO, Friday morning.—The Suez Canal will be closed to ships from any country which tries to break the Egyptian blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba, the semi-official newspaper *Al Ahram* reported here today.

Al Ahram also reported that Egyptian planes fitted with rockets have been ordered to shadow the British aircraft carrier Hermes, which the paper said is in the Red Sea.—*Agence France Presse.*

Dayan is Israel's defence chief

TEL AVIV, June 1.—Israel tonight summoned tough General Moshe Dayan, victor of the 1956 Sinai campaign against Egypt, to take over the key post of Defence Minister in a "Government of National Unity".

The appointment of the general has been urged by several political leaders and by popular feeling. It is expected to raise morale.—*Reuter.*

Mr Wilson in Ottawa

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

OTTAWA, JUNE 1

Young Arab demonstrators, carrying placards bearing slogans such as "Wilson—no conspiracy against the Arab nations" and "Don't sacrifice western interests for world Zionism" were on Parliament Hill this evening when the British Prime Minister arrived here for talks with Mr. Pearson, the Canadian leader, on the Middle East crisis. There were no incidents.

Eight die in Aden day of violence

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

ADEN, JUNE 1

Eight people died in a renewal of violence in Aden today during a one-day general strike. A British soldier and six Arabs were killed in clashes with security forces, and another Arab was killed by stray fire. Troops arrested five men.

Egypt threat on closing canal.
The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 02, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56957.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17394882

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS: MORE STATES RALLY TO SUPPORT OF CAIRO

Egyptians hamper US consul

Shipboard visits banned

From PETER HOPKIRK—Cairo, June 1

The Egyptians are putting difficulties in the way of Mr. Edward Springer, the United States consul in Port Said, it was learnt tonight.

For the past nine days he has not been allowed to go on board American vessels passing through the Suez Canal and his launch, which was overhauled recently, has been declared unseaworthy.

Protests to the authorities produced the reply that if local boatmen chose to boycott him it was their business. Photographers who were taken by the Egyptians along the canal road to take pictures of the American aircraft carrier Intrepid saw two Egyptian submarines ahead of her in the convoy. They were forbidden to photograph these.

The newspaper *Al Ahram* reports today that the transit will cost the Americans £14,000 in canal tolls. Three Egyptian pilots are on board the carrier, with a tug ahead of her and another astern.

Egyptian forces have been ordered to use immediate force against any ship trying to evade search when entering the Strait of Tiran and to seize any vessel whose crew resist inspection, *Al Akhbar* reports today.

It says that the list of banned goods includes arms, ammunition and other military equipment, aircraft, cars, railway engines, clothing for soldiers, certain machinery, all provisions, cattle, cattle fodder, gold, silver, and bank notes.

Suez passage by US carrier

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, JUNE 1

The Defence Department announced today that the United States escort carrier Intrepid had passed through the Suez Canal without incident and was heading for Vietnam.

The Intrepid will relieve one of the three carriers now stationed off Vietnam. These are reported to be the Constellation, the Hancock, and the Ben Homme Richard.

Officials here have emphasized that the movement of the carrier is not related to any effort to challenge the United Arab Republic's blockade of the Strait of Tiran.

MOVE TO JERUSALEM BY PALESTINE LEADER

From NICHOLAS HERBERT, Amman, June 1

King Husain of Jordan today conferred with Ahmed Shukairy, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, who had earlier announced the reopening of his headquarters in Jerusalem.

In an interview with reporters Mr. Shukairy declined, however, to say whether units of the Palestine Liberation Army would be stationed on the front here, as they already have been in Syria and Egypt.

"We will coordinate the efforts of the P.L.O. with responsible authorities in Jordan in all fields—politically, militarily and materially", he said. "I will not commit myself to any detailed plan." He would not rise to the suggestion that he might contribute towards easing relations between Jordan and Syria, which has still taken no public notice of King Husain's defence agreement with President Nasser.

Mr. Shukairy seemed determined that the war should come soon. It was, he said, very probable that the Jordan Army might start the battle. It is doubtful whether his new allies here would agree with this.

King Husain is reported to be saddened by Britain's apparent determination to go on record against the Arab position on the Tiran Strait issue at this stage, but the British Embassy has been urged not to send home its dependants too precipitately, and there is no hostility as yet.

The arrival of Iraq forces is still awaited, and the King today also saw the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, Major-General Amer Khammash, who returned from an overnight visit to Baghdad.

Presumably his discussions confirmed the arrangement for putting Iraq forces into the front line.

Ahmed Touan, the Jordan Foreign Minister, went to Cairo to exchange the instruments of ratification of the defence agreement. Jordan had also agreed to accommodate Saudi Arabian troops and arrangements for this are expected to be discussed with Prince Abdul Mohsen Ben Abdul Aziz, the Governor of Medina, who is at present visiting Amman.



General Moshe Dayan, whose new appointment as Defence Minister has roused enthusiasm in Israel, visiting troops yesterday.

Commando ship aid

By BASIL GINGELL, Naval Correspondent

The commando ship Albion (23,300 tons), with 41 Commando embarked, was speeding towards the Middle East last night. Although the strictest security blackout was being maintained about her destination, it is reliably understood that she is making for the Mediterranean to reinforce a naval build-up which will comprise five frigates and the aircraft carrier Victorious.

The possibility of Albion being sent to the trouble area was forecast in *The Times* last week when the ship was off Northern Ireland carrying out exercises as part of the work up process.

The ship with her Royal Marines constitutes the most effective presence that Britain can bring to the Middle East in a reasonably short time, and the Commando embarked is a most experienced one.

The frigate Phoebe, which sailed from Scotland on Monday, is expected in the Mediterranean at the weekend, closely followed by the Berwick which left on Wednesday. With the Rhyl "temporarily held over", as the Navy puts it, and the two frigates normally on station there this will mean more than 1,000 officers and men

ISRAEL MAKING READY FOR LONG SIEGE

From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME, Defence Correspondent, Tel Aviv, June 1

The Israel Government gave every appearance today of preparing for a long siege. Politically the Government has recognized the need to convince the public that there are sound reasons for not acting independently against Egypt while continuing to keep a high state of military readiness.

It is this need which lies behind the concessions by Mr. Eshkol, the Prime Minister, to party pressures for the allocation of the Defence Ministry—now under his responsibility—to another figure such as Mr. Allon, the Labour Minister, or General Moshe Dayan, the former Army commander, both of whom inspire public confidence.

Their occupance of the post would not so much presage new action as satisfy the public that if military-minded men such as they counselled restraint, they had good reasons for doing so.

Nevertheless, even the present crisis has been unable to induce any great singleness of purpose among Israel's various political factions, who have been meeting off and on for the past 24 hours over the vexed question of broadening Mr. Eshkol's Cabinet. In spite of the first meetings on this subject, started a week ago, there was still enough left to argue about for the ruling party to break up undecided after a five-hour meeting today.

On the economic front, it is now evident that a considerable degree of labour direction will be used by the Government to overcome the effects of a long period of mobilization. Whatever measures are carried out there is no escaping the fact that a proportion of Israel's 900,000-strong labour force will have to be kept out of the economy, in the armed services.

Claims have been made that productivity has risen in Israel since the call-up, but it is hard to believe that any rise in productivity could adequately cushion the effect of about one-quarter of the labour force being suddenly withdrawn. It is fortunate for Israel that the citrus season is over, as this accounts for much of her exports.

Germany to send gas masks

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BONN, JUNE 1

The German Cabinet decided unanimously tonight to agree to Israel's request for 20,000 gas masks for use in case of an Arab attack. A spokesman said it was "a humanitarian measure", not a delivery of war material to the Middle East.

Iraq threatens to nationalize oil

Penalty of aiding Israel

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC STAFF

Iraq is considering the nationalization of western oil companies, including the Iraq Petroleum Company, if western countries take Israel's side in an attack on the Arabs, or if they take direct action themselves to clear the Strait of Tiran. Iraq would also break off all diplomatic and economic ties with Britain and America.

With a number of other Arab countries, Iraq has already threatened to cut off supplies of oil. A meeting of representatives of oil-producing countries is to be held in Baghdad on Sunday to coordinate policies.

Policies explained

The nationalization threat has yet to be conveyed officially to the British Government. Mr. Hammoudi, the Iraqi chargé d'affaires in London called on Mr. Thomson, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, yesterday. An Iraqi spokesman said afterwards that his purpose was to explain in the greatest detail Iraq's policy in the crisis. Mr. Thomson explained British policy, laying great emphasis on the fact that Britain has not taken sides in the dispute.

None of the other oil producing states is likely to contemplate nationalization of western oil companies, but Kuwait has said it would occupy oil installations in the event of war, to prevent sabotage, and would "suspend the interests" of anyone supporting Israel. Saudi Arabia has also stated it would suspend oil shipments to the west, and it is probable that Libya would do the same. Algeria might make the gesture, but if her brother Arabs called on her to suspend shipments to France, that might be a different matter.

Cautious attitude

Iran has taken a cautious attitude towards the crisis, but it is not at all certain she would be able to continue sending oil to Britain if all Arab producers stopped. She has, however, been supplying Israel, to the Arabs great chagrin, and might consider the chance to expand her market too good to miss.

It is thought in London that if worse should come to worst, supplies could be obtained from America and Venezuela. The Nigerian crisis has complicated the possibilities of getting oil from Calabar, and it is not known what attitude the Gulf shaikhdoms would take. Britain still has garrisons there, as well as in Aden, and if there were war in the Middle East, this would be the occasion to prove their effectiveness in protecting oil supplies.

Troops to Sinai

Iraq has now sent troops into Sinai, where they stand guard with the Egyptians over the Strait of Tiran. There are also said to be symbolic contingents from Sudan, Kuwait, Algeria and the Yemeni Republic. The point of the exercise is to demonstrate that any attack on Egypt to clear the strait would be an attack on all Arab countries.

Iraq is also sending troops into Syria and Jordan. Formerly, Israel stated it would regard the posting of Iraqi troops on the west bank of the river Jordan as a *casus belli*. Iraqi troops are to be sent to the frontier with Israel both in Jordan and Syria.

Malta statement on bases' use

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

MALTA, JUNE 1

Mr. Frederick Amatogauci, Secretary of the Ministry of Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs, today denied a report in *The Times* that Dr. Borg Olivier, Prime Minister of Malta, had said he would refuse Britain permission to use the Malta base against Arab countries.

Mr. Amatogauci referred to a written reply given by the Prime Minister in Parliament last night after he had been asked if he would give an assurance that he would not let Malta be used as a military base against Israel or the Arab countries. He replied that the question referred to a hypothetical situation and that such assurance would go beyond the international obligations assumed by Malta also as a member of the United Nations.

He added: "Malta has good relations both with Arab countries and with Israel and will not take or allow anyone to use her for any action against any one of these countries unless there were involved in the situation which could develop principles and beliefs to which Malta adhered in her foreign policy."

Crucial UN meeting delayed

FROM OUR UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, JUNE 1

Ten days after it became seized on the present acute phase of the Middle East question, the Security Council is still trying to find an agreed solution. After intensive private talks today, especially between the representatives of the 10 non-permanent or smaller members, it was decided to put off tomorrow's meeting until Saturday, in the hope that some degree of unanimity could be found.

U Thant, the Secretary-General, has cancelled the trip he was to have made on Saturday to Canada for United Nations Day at Expo '67 in Montreal. It is understood that Mr. Harold Wilson may come to New York on that day and confer with U Thant and other key figures, including Lord Caradon, the British representative at the United Nations.

So far, there has been extensive skirmishing in the council. Now, however, the "crunch" is approaching. The most important issue seems to be whether the big four can work together to prevent an open conflict or whether Russian support for the Arab cause will go so far as to encourage belligerence, particularly in the Gulf of Aqaba.

One hopeful sign is that Dr. Fedorenko, the Soviet representative, in all his interventions and exchanges with the British and American representatives, has said not a word about the Gulf of Aqaba. If this can be taken to mean that Russia does not want sovereignty to be asserted through belligerency, there is a chance that reason will prevail.

Breathing spell

Throughout the day intensive talks were going on between members of the council. According to a usually reliable Soviet source here, Russia is not opposed to four-power talks "at the United Nations diplomatic level". This would indicate that there is more scope for private consultation than previously.

Lord Caradon had a busy day with the object of developing more common ground. So far, the main common ground is last Saturday's report by the Secretary-General on his mission to Cairo. Most countries subscribe to his view that a peaceful outcome to the crisis depends upon a "breathing spell" to allow tension to subside.

There is also wide agreement with his appeal to the parties concerned "to exercise special restraint,

Middle East Crisis: More States Rally To Support Of Cairo.
From PETER HOPKIRK

The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 02, 1967; pg. 7; Issue 56957.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS117664962

Letters to the Editor

PRIORITIES FOR SOLVING THE CRISIS

From Professor G. Schwarzenberger

Sir,—Any teacher of international law who, over the years, has been actively and peacefully co-existing with Arab and Israeli students cannot help being aware of the complexity of the legal issues involved in the present confrontation between Israel and the Arab States.

In a case where basic states of international relations—peace, war, and a state of intermediacy between both—are contested; frontiers are recognized by some, but not by others, and issues as controversial as those relating to international straits and the territorial sea are involved, any party to a dispute is always able to present a plausible case in law. In such a situation, not even an international court can render a "correct" decision. If the parties to the dispute are willing, the most such a court can do is to settle the dispute on the basis of the law as it appears to such an international judicial institution.

At this stage, individual international lawyers can help even less. At their best, they can attempt to balance the pros and cons of such a case and, in fact, set themselves up as self-appointed international mini-tribunals. At their worst, they become associated with the ideological pre-war campaigns already being waged at full blast by all concerned. What, at this crucial point, a student of international relations can suggest is something different.

It is to attempt to assist in getting priorities right between international law and politics. In an international system of power politics in disguise, such as our present world society under the United Nations, the first priority is an understanding between the two super-Powers who, significantly, are moving some of their status symbols—naval units with nuclear capability—into the Eastern Mediterranean. Unless a consensus between them can be attained, there is no alternative to the existing state of semi-anarchy in the area and, ultimately, a relapse into a state of futile violence.

Only if and when such an agreement has been reached, will the stage have been set for the next phase: the use of the Security Council of the United Nations for the adoption of provisional measures for the preservation or restoration of international peace and security under Chapter Seven of the Charter anywhere in the area, including the Straits of Tiran. Only when this has been done, and the execution of the orders of the Security Council is supervised by an effective presence of the United Nations, does it make sense to appeal to the law.

In the third phase, the Security Council could usefully ask, for instance, the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion on the legal rights *and duties* of all concerned.

Yours faithfully,
G. SCHWARZENBERGER.
Faculty of Laws, University College, W.C.1, May 31.

The refugees

From Mr. Z. A. Nusseibeh

Sir,—Perhaps one of the more tragic aspects of the present Arab-Israeli crisis is the emergence in Britain of the hardened attitude towards the Palestinian Arab refugee.

In the first place, we are told (Mr. Philip Toynbee, May 31), it is unthinkable for him to even contemplate going back to his country, and, in the second, that if he does, it would mean either the massacre of every Israeli in Palestine or the mass exodus of the present Jewish population. Finally, we are told, both these alternatives are implicit in the Arab states' threat to destroy Israel.

These interpretations are preposterous. The Arabs wish to (a) see that the Palestinian Arabs return to their country and (b) change the political set-up in Palestine in accordance with its past history. Both these goals do not exclude the rational solution of having the Jews and the Arabs live in Palestine. If they are to be condemned, at least let them be condemned for the right reasons. Talking of massacres will not appeal to judgment or reason.

Nor can we hope to preserve long-term peace in the area if we continually overlook these issues until they fester and explode. Violence is always regrettable. It is "wicked, mad, and unsupportable" to direct its pace and direction by the assumption that the tensions are fabricated and can always be controlled by an arms race or direct military intervention.

Yours sincerely,
Z. A. NUSSEIBEH.
Queens' College, Cambridge, May 31.

A state of war

From Mr. E. J. Foote

Sir,—Egypt states—and has often stated in the past—that she is still at war with Israel. Therefore any military action which may be taken by Israel against Egypt cannot surely be deemed aggression since it would seem to be the negation of all common sense if one country can say to another "We are at war with you, but you may not be at war with us".

Yours faithfully,
E. J. FOOTE.
84 Old Church Street, S.W.3, May 28.

one which occurs at the lower speed. If a motorist is able to prove that although he exceeded the limit, the conditions were such that he had to do so in the interests of what he conceived to be road safety because of the conduct of other drivers, magistrates might well say that this was a mitigating circumstance to justify non-disqualification.

Yours truly,
G. S. WILKINSON.
7 Mortimer Road, Cambridge.

A SISYPHEAN TASK

From Mr. F. H. Hackman

Sir,—The recent conference of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation has sought to draw attention to the considerable number of outstanding tax assessments and has referred to the multitude of postal items at any one time requiring attention.

Professional men can readily sympathize with their counterparts on the Revenue side in the Sisyphean task which has been thrust upon them. On the other hand the present appalling delays mean that it now takes considerably longer to complete the administration of an estate or the winding up of a trust than it did before all the recent reforming legislation was introduced, simply because the Revenue Authorities take so long to give Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax clearances.

It is to be hoped that those who are apt to attribute any delay to their professional advisers will have cognizance of this new development.

Yours faithfully,
F. H. HACKMAN.
46 Bedford Square, W.C.1, May 31.

RETURN OF THE AUTOCRAT

From Mr. John Fernald

Sir,—Sir Robert Aitken (in your issue of May 25) is disturbed by Mr. Wardle's plea for the theatrical autocrat, but like many chairmen of repertory boards he makes the mistake of equating the direction of theatre policy with management in other fields.

Boards in industry are usually composed of at least a fair number of people who have a knowledge of the elements which have to be managed. If "discussion between a director and his board" is to be more than a polite formality (in the course of which much waste of a director's precious time can occur) then the repertory board needs to have a knowledge which in reasonable measure matches the director's own. But this is seldom so.

How many repertory boards are able to determine a play's artistic merit and the reasons why one play may be, in relation to the composition of the acting company, a better piece of programming than another? Instances abound in which the obstinacy of theatrically ignorant boards has resulted in mediocrity, but I cannot recall any where a first-class man who has been given his head has failed to bring his theatre credit.

Perhaps the best safeguard against the danger of a director going wild is a partnership of two first-class men who respect each other, match each other in specialised knowledge and complement each other in intellectual ability. Fortunately our National Theatre possesses such a partnership, but it is sad that factors of a kind with which every repertory theatre director will be familiar, have lessened this advantage.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FERNALD,
Artistic Director.
Meadow Brook Theatre, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan, U.S.A., May 29.

ABORTION BILL

From the Rev. Lord Soper and others

Sir,—Dr. Ernest Payne may be right in his judgment (May 31) that the letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Bishops of London and Durham (May 24) is in line with a substantial body of opinion among Free Churchmen.

It is, however, beyond doubt that a substantial body of opinion among Free Churchmen desired to see the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill enacted. The Methodist Church, for example, endorsed, through its 1966 Conference, the substance of the four subsections of Clause 1 of Mr. Steel's Bill as it stood before entering Committee. The amendments to the Bill do not seem to us to have altered the principles contained in the original draft.

It should, however, be added that both the Methodist Conference and the British Council of Churches have called for the insertion into the Bill of a Clause requiring a parliamentary review after five years. We believe that such a procedure would be a valuable means of providing information not at present available. The acceptance of such a provision, together with other safeguards contained in the Bill, ought, we think, to allay the fears of many of its critics.

Yours &c.,
SOPER, EDWARD ROGERS,
General Secretary
KENNETH G. GREET, Secretary,
Department of Christian Citizenship, The Methodist Church, Central Buildings, S.W.1.

HENRY MOORE'S GIFT

From Sir Kenneth Clark, C.H.

Sir,—Reading the letter on Henry Moore's gift (May 26) in the City of Giotto, Donatello, Masaccio, Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, the historian

Priorities For Solving The Crisis.
G. SCHWARZENBERGER. Faculty of Laws, University College, W.C.1, May 31, Z. A. NUSSEIBEH. Queens' College, Cambridge, May 31 and E. J. FOOTE. 84 Old Church Street, S.W.3, May 28.

The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 02, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56957.

Category: Letters to the Editor

Gale Document Number:CS185167042

PARLIAMENT

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1967

The Lords: Lord Chalfont warns of nuclear dangers in Middle East: Lord Avon on Aden guarantee

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the Woolsack at 3 p.m.

The Public Records Bill passed the committee stage.

LORD CHALFONT, Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, initiating a debate on the Middle East, said the Government sympathized with the difficulties with which the Secretary General of the United Nations was confronted when President Nasser demanded the withdrawal of the force which had so successfully maintained peace on the frontier between Egypt and Israel and in the Gulf of Aqaba since 1957. They could understand, too, the reluctance that he might have felt to expose members of the United Nations force to unnecessary risk.

I have a great personal admiration (he said) and indeed affection for U Thant, whom I have got to know well. He is a man dedicated to the cause of peace, a man to whom violence and war are almost painfully repugnant.

But having said that, we greatly regret the hasty withdrawal of the force without further discussion in the United Nations and the effect which the sudden disappearance of this force may have on the credibility of United Nations peace-keeping elsewhere in the world.

Nuclear menace

There was a more serious menace lurking just below the surface. Israel was one of the most advanced countries in the world in terms of development of nuclear technology.

He had no doubt that Israel would be in a position to explode a nuclear device within a very few years of taking the political decision to do so. If this was done, everything would be violently and irrevocably changed.

Whatever we say now (he said), if nuclear weapons come into the picture there can be very little doubt that we would all become involved in nuclear war.

The Middle East problem would not be solved as long as it remained the cockpit of great power politics. Those who believed that the only real hope for a world of sanity and peace lay with the United Nations would find the strength and support to take the lead in bringing lasting peace to the Middle East.

Band together

LORD CARRINGTON (C.) said that if a settlement on the lines outlined by the Government were achieved, it would do something to restore the rather tarnished reputation of the United Nations. If this failed, then the maritime nations should band together and do what the United Nations should have done in the name of the maritime nations of the world.

It was right that Britain should consult her friends on what should be done if the United Nations failed.

It may be (he said)—I do not know and I hope not—necessary to threaten force or to use force.

If Israel felt herself isolated and that she had suffered a reverse of considerable magnitude, there would be increasing temptation for her to develop her own nuclear weapons as a deterrent, and perhaps in the last resort to use them.

If she let it be known that she intended to do this the consequences would be catastrophic. He hoped that this aspect of the situation would be forcefully brought home at the United Nations and that the possible consequences of inaction would be underlined. For it might be that out of this crisis the most dangerous result would be the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

LORD GLADWYN (L.) said if diplomacy failed, the maritime nations, with the United States at their head, should take such action as seemed good to them. If a confrontation took place as it did over Cuba and Berlin, only the two super powers could deal with it.

If we all play our cards correctly (he said) the position of Israel, although possibly weakened, will be preserved, while the present Arab block, many of whom do not want to come under the influence of communism, will be likely to disintegrate

Guarantee to Aden

The EARL of AVON (C.) said he imagined that the Government were considering the situation in Aden afresh in the light of recent developments in other parts of the Middle East.

He could understand and shared the wish that Britain should not be involved in a lasting commitment once a decision had been taken that at some date Britain had to withdraw. The question was whether they could find some way through which gave Aden a fair chance of survival in freedom to run its own affairs without at the same time landing Britain with an indefinite " shall we say unsatisfactory " commitment.

It would not be unreasonable for Britain to guarantee Aden against external interference for a fixed and definitely limited period, with the added proviso that the commitment would at once disappear the moment Egyptian forces withdrew from the Yemen. At least that was a possibility which without injuring anybody could assist in loosening a situation so full of danger at present.

The issue was whether Egypt would now take some action which would finally strangle Israel. That was the issue and they must not get lost in fine arguments about rights in international waterways.

Eminently it was right that the state of affairs in the Gulf of Aqaba should be brought to the United Nations, and that every possible effort should be made to try and get agreement there.

If the Secretary General could not find a course to agree upon in respect to the Gulf, perhaps owing to the Soviet veto or some other reason, then it would seem that the right course—and, as he understood it, the course that the Government contemplated—would be to call a meeting of the maritime powers and determine there the course of action which ought to be followed to restore the strait to free navigation.

He was glad to hear that talks with other maritime nations were under way, because he was sure that that was wise and necessary. Time was not on their side.

For my part, if the Government took counsel with the maritime powers I should be willing to support whatever action they, with the United States and, I hope, some other maritime powers, thought necessary in order to ensure that freedom of navigation was restored once again.

Justified warning

Lord Chalfont's warning on the nuclear aspect of the crisis was fully justified.

I will be frank (he said). History does or does not repeat itself. I feel myself not 10 years ago, but very much in the 1930s at present. If we were to try to do something as we did in the 1930s in respect to Czechoslovakia at the expense of Israel, we would deserve all we got, and all we got would be the very nuclear danger to which Lord Chalfont referred.

I think it has a message for us all—that we must not only do justice, but must take our part in seeing that justice is done, or we shall suffer as others will suffer too. Perhaps it is a selfish argument, but it is one that works occasionally when others do not.

Perhaps the most tragic aspect was the attempt to make a holy war out of the situation. It was terrible that it should be thought a Godly deed to butcher a whole people, or to call by radio for genocide, yet this was what was happening.

Israel was a member of the United Nations, with a right to live. Israel could not be deprived of that right. This was something that must never be allowed to happen.

We must be ready to bear our full share (he concluded) and we must encourage others to do the same, so that this crime will not be perpetrated. There can be no free conscience for this country of ours otherwise.

LORD ROWLEY (Lab.) said he was sorry to hear references to a " tarnished " United Nations. He regretted that U Thant, who was dedicated to the cause of peace, seemed to have been guilty of an error of judgment in responding to the demand of the Egyptian Government for the withdrawal of the forces.

He hoped the Soviet Union would be invited to any conference proposed to bring about a declaration by the maritime powers.

U S commitments

LORD CACCIA said that if there was to be an outcome that the Government would regard as satisfactory, Britain's action must have, and be known to the Russians to have, the full backing of the United States. Whether the United States would want to come out in the lead was a tactical question.

President Johnson was the record holder for the number of I.O.U.s he had had to pick up from previous Presidents. Like it or not, the American President could not avoid his responsibility for commitments made to Israel and to the freedom of navigation in the Strait of Tiran.

The Government should be ready to encourage and support the Americans, to assume responsibility which was theirs whether they liked it or not.

He accepted that the Government were right first to work through the United Nations and to get the support of maritime powers.

If in the end (he said) the choice is for us to back the United States alone in this or back out, I would urge that we should stand up and be counted in.

The MARQUESS of SALISBURY (C.) said that they had come to recognize the technique of ambitious dictators who wished to extend their power and prestige and possibly their territories.

If President Nasser is allowed to get away with this (he said) make no mistake we shall never have a moment's peace any more than we did with Hitler before the last war.

To leave the issue entirely to the United Nations probably meant that nothing would be done and Nasser would get away with his aggression, which would strike a blow to the rule of law.

The failure to make a stand now would only pave the way to a much more dangerous situation later on. A world that had become a kind of stamping ground for the internationally lawless would not be worth living in at all.

Facts of life

LADY GAITSKELL (Lab.) said that those M.P.s who had visited Nasser recently should go to the United Nations and learn the international facts of life. These M.P.s claimed that Nasser only wanted peace, yet they had heard Cairo Radio clamour for the extermination of Israel and Nasser say that he would not rest until he had destroyed Israel. Yet they had said he only wanted peace.

Nasser was a great nationalist leader. Only history would show whether he was a great man. Revenge and hatred were the spurs to all his actions.

VISCOUNT DILHORNE said it made no difference whether Egypt's claim that the Strait of Tiran was part of her territorial waters was valid, or if one said it was international waters. Whatever it be, Egypt had no right in international law as declared in the 1958 convention to interfere with the right of innocent passage, to stop a ship or search a ship.

He supported the Government proposals, and would like a positive statement that there was and had always been and would continue to be right of innocent passage for the ships of all states, including Israel, through the Strait of Tiran.

The signatories to the earlier convention, which included the Soviet Union, ought to endorse such a declaration. It could not be left to the United Nations, but it concerned every nation with faith in international law.

LORD SIEFF said the Israelis were genuinely afraid of annihilation. This should be regarded as a moral question. He could not believe that Britain, along with many other countries, would stand idly by.

LORD WELLS-PESTELL (Lab.) said President Kennedy had acted quickly in the Cuban affair. Why could not Britain, America, and the other maritime nations do something similar without further delay ?

VISCOUNT WATKINSON (C.) said the world was armed with an overkill capacity of nuclear weapons—a situation in which the threat of nuclear war could not be dismissed as utterly irrelevant. The Russians should be told of the dangers to which they were exposing their nation, with the Americans on one side and the Russians on the other.

LORD SOPER (Lab.) said that in principle he was convinced they must give their support to Israel but he was committed to the belief that it would be completely and utterly wrong to go to war, even for the salvation of Israel.

Unfortunate act

LADY ELLIOT of HARWOOD (C.) said she was a delegate at the United Nations General Assembly when the Canadian proposal had been put forward for the establishment of a peace-keeping force on the Israeli border. It was the only great thing which came out of that General Assembly.

The force should not have been removed without consultation. It was an extremely unfortunate act on the part of the Secretary General. They could not stand by and let Israel be driven into the sea.

LORD BROCKWAY (Lab.) said he regretted that the United Nations force had been withdrawn so expeditiously. Undoubtedly Egypt had the right to ask for its withdrawal but the request should not have been accepted without some consultation with the Security Council or the General Assembly.

The EARL of ARRAN (Nat. L.) said that once again Britain found herself forced back to the horrid truth that in the last resort it was strength and armed preparedness which counted—that in international affairs the weak would always go to the wall, and that appeasement never paid.

Control of canal

LORD SEGAL (Lab.) said if Israel was to continue showing restraint Britain must offer her aid in her hour of trouble. Britain must join with other maritime nations to break the blockade in the Strait of Tiran and if as a result President Nasser carried out his threat to block the Suez Canal then he forfeited all claim to be left in control of the canal.

There could be no hope of peace in the Middle East as long as President Nasser remained in charge of the canal. The use of any great international waterway as an instrument of national policy should be banned by all maritime countries.

LORD FRASER of NORTH CAPE (Ind.) said the United Nations should guarantee the frontiers of Israel and the Arabs. If any nation applied the veto to the resolution it demonstrated to the world that they wanted to exterminate 2,500,000 people.

LORD MORRIS of KENWOOD (Lab.) said the declared intention of Egypt and Syria to raze Israel from the map of the Middle East bore direct analogy with Nazi Germany.

VISCOUNT MONCKTON of BRENCHLEY (C.) said Britain could not give moral leadership without some committed force behind it. Being committed to the defence of a country made war less likely.

Unthinkable act

The EARL of LONGFORD, Lord Privy Seal, said the Government would be watching carefully for any effects of the Middle East crisis on South Arabia, but it was much too early to talk about a change of policy as a result of the events further north.

They were friends of the people of Israel and also of the Arabs. They did not favour one side or the other, and were anxious to be fair and well-disposed to both.

We are no enemies of Arab nationalism (he said) and we sympathize with their aspirations toward a greater unity. But we would consider any attempt to eliminate Israel as unthinkable, as utterly nauseating.

The U.A.R. claim to deny Israel access to the gulf posed a threat of strangulation to Israel and to navigation generally in an international waterway. As a maritime nation, Britain could not accept that.

It was in the United Nations forum that they believed a solution could first and foremost be found. They believed that if all the countries concerned would refrain from belligerent acts there could be time for diplomatic consultation to take place.

We are (he said) entirely opposed to any kind of aggression, but there remains this grave possibility and no one can suppose that the Government are not working immensely hard to cover this situation.

The House rose at 8.19 p.m.

The Lords: Lord Chalfont warns of nuclear dangers in Middle East: Lord Avon on Aden guarantee.
The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 02, 1967; pg. 15; Issue 56957.

Category: Politics and Parliament

Gale Document Number:CS251882690

MR WILSON SEES RISK OF WIDER CONFLICT

Declaration by maritime states discussed with Mr Johnson

Mr. Wilson, who is in Washington for talks with President Johnson, said at a press conference yesterday that the freedom of shipping in the Gulf of Aqaba was still the key to the Middle East crisis. At the same time he said he thought Russia sincerely wished to keep the peace in the area.

In Ottawa earlier, Mr. Wilson said there were only a few days left to find a solution to the Aqaba situation. Both he and Mr. Pearson, the Canadian Prime Minister, felt very strongly that the answer still lay with the United Nations.

From Cairo came a hint that Egypt would close the Suez Canal to ships of any nation planning action against her over the Gulf of Aqaba.

For the first time since the crisis developed, Arabs and Jews have clashed on the Syria-Israel border. An Israel army spokesman said two Israel soldiers and one Syrian saboteur were killed.



Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy (seen with Mrs. David Bruce, the wife of the American Ambassador), arrives at Heath Row to attend the funeral of Lady Harlech.

PRESSURE TO RETAIN BRITISH FORCES

From LOUIS HEREN—Washington, June 2

Mr. Wilson said today that there could be a conflict wider than one between Israel and the Arab states if confidence in the present policy to keep the Gulf of Aqaba open was not justified.

The Prime Minister was trying to explain at a press conference the importance of the proposed declaration of the maritime nations on the freedom of passage through the Strait of Tiran. He saw the declaration as an instrument of continuing restraint that could eventually lead to negotiations.

In spite of the atmosphere of a television spectacular—the press conference was broadcast in colour on most of the networks—his words were largely inconclusive. The reason was obvious: not enough maritime powers have been persuaded to agree on a form of wording that would do something more than restate a principle almost as old as the coracle.

Doubtful support

The failure is, of course, not Mr. Wilson's nor President Johnson's for that matter. The Prime Minister said that the communist countries could adhere to the declaration, and, if this is unlikely, the full support of western maritime countries is equally in doubt.

The Middle East was not the only pressing problem discussed. Immediately on his arrival this morning, the Prime Minister said that he was as much concerned with the great problem of war and peace in Asia.

The situation in the Middle East was urgent and would be given proper priority, but there were other problems requiring settlement.

Reports that Mr. Wilson would press Mr. Johnson not to escalate the war in Vietnam were not denied, but the suggestion that the differences between the two threatened the renewed close Anglo-American cooperation was not borne out by the Prime Minister's remarks at his press conference.

The President was well acquainted with his views on Vietnam, but he believed that there was a general willingness to get to the conference table if only the green light would come from Hanoi. Britain would continue with her peace efforts, and he was certain of the full support of the United States if talks were made possible.

The Prime Minister spoke on the south lawn of the White House, after receiving an effusive greeting from Mr. Johnson. The President quoted Sir Winston Churchill and President Roosevelt as witnesses to the majesty of Anglo-American connexions and the responsibility of freedom-loving countries to work together in order that peace, justice and confidence may prevail in the world.

"They pledged our countries to a common commitment which we have honoured ever since. We come together today in another time of trouble, when peace and justice are again in the balance. It is on occasions like this that the counsel of old and trusted friends is most welcome."

President Johnson's priorities today were the Middle East and the British presence east of Suez. It was later made known at the White House that he pressed Mr. Wilson to delay any decision to reduce British forces there beyond the levels already announced.

In spite of the warm words about hands across the sea, it seemed today that some measure of Anglo-American agreement could be reached only in the turmoil of the Middle East. The proposed declaration of the maritime nations was the first order of business, but Mr. George Christian, the White House press secretary, said it was too early to say what form it would take.

Mr. Robert McCloskey, the State Department spokesman, said that the declaration had been phrased in such a way that a number of maritime nations were expected to sign it, including Israel. He denied reports that it would not necessarily cover the immediate passage of Israel ships through the Strait of Tiran.

Israel accepts

The Israel Embassy announced that Israel had accepted the invitation to sign the declaration. The draft was said to comprise three points.

It was declared as a matter of principle that the Gulf of Aqaba is an international waterway that should be open to all shipping; that the signatories are prepared to exercise their rights of free and innocent passage; and that they seek to establish that the principle of freedom of passage applies to all nations.

Both spokesmen said that the draft followed the policy line drawn by President Johnson in his statement of May 23. The relevant passage is:

"The United States considers the Gulf to be an international waterway and feels that a blockade of Israeli shipping is illegal and potentially disastrous to the cause of peace. The right of free, innocent passage of the international waterway is a vital interest of the international community."

The Prime Minister and Mrs. Wilson were received with all the colourful ceremonial this once egalitarian republic has assembled since world leaders have beaten a path to the White House.



At the White House—Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Wilson, the President, and Mrs. Wilson.

Russian ship bombed by US planes

FROM RAYMOND H. ANDERSON

MOSCOW, JUNE 2

The Soviet Government protested to the United States today over what it alleged was the bombing of a Soviet merchant ship in North Vietnam by American aircraft.

The protest was in a note handed by Mr. Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, to Mr. John C. Guthrie, Charge d'Affaires of the United States Embassy.

The Note said the Soviet Government would be compelled to take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of its ships if similar attacks occurred. It demanded that those responsible for the attack be punished and that Washington give assurances that there will be no more attacks.

According to Tass, the Soviet Government alleged that American aircraft bombed the Turkestan, a diesel ship, today while it was in the port of Kampha, 50 miles north of Haiphong.—*New York Times News Service.*

Mr Wilson will see U Thant

FROM OUR UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, JUNE 2

When Mr. Wilson comes to United Nations headquarters tomorrow morning he will confer with U Thant, the Secretary-General, with Lord Caradon, the British representative, and with other delegates concerned with trying to find a peaceful solution of the Middle East crisis.

London gold haul traced to Geneva

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

GENEVA, JUNE 2

About £67,000-worth of the bullion stolen in the £750,000 raid in London on a van transporting gold for N. M. Rothschild and Sons on May 1 has been traced to Geneva—and six ingots, valued at some £30,000, have been recovered.

Two Scotland Yard detective-inspectors, who arrived here on Wednesday night, provided Swiss police with information which enabled them to recover the six ingots, each weighing 25lb., within a matter of hours.

Ten other ingots have already been melted down or cut up and the gold disposed of through normal trade channels to jewellers and dealers.

The 16 ingots entered Switzerland normally—there are no restrictions on importing and exporting gold—some time between May 8 and 16, having apparently been bought in good faith by a dealer here.

According to the police, there is no question at present of proceedings being opened against anyone in Geneva.

No rationing of petrol

BY OUR POLITICAL STAFF

In the event of war in the Middle East, the Government believe that it will not be necessary to introduce petrol rationing.

It was pointed out yesterday that since the Suez crisis of 1956 new sources of supply have become available and stocks are high in Britain, and this would provide a breathing space during which adjustments could be arranged to make up the supplies which might be cut off from the Middle East.

The Government's advisers are careful to add a warning that this assessment is made purely on the basis of "foreseeable contingencies" at present. If there was large-scale war the oil supply situation would be serious and petrol would have to be rationed.

CRIME RATE DOWN IN MANY AREAS

13-year trend checked

By NORMAN FOWLER, Home Affairs Correspondent

For the first time since the early 1950s there are real signs that the crime wave may be levelling out. Crime has risen steeply since 1954 but several forces are reporting that so far this year crime has fallen, or at least remained steady.

The Home Office are treating the returns with cautious optimism but see in them some return for the new methods that have been introduced to fight crime.

Although the final figures for last year have not yet been published, provisional estimates put the increase over 1965 at 5.8 per cent, compared with an increase in the previous 12 months of 6.2 per cent.

By far the most encouraging fall has been in London. Here the Metropolitan Police report that crime—as measured by the number of indictable offences—dropped by 3 per cent in the first three months of this year compared with the same period last year. At the same time the detection rate—the proportion of crimes cleared up by the police—has risen.

Other forces also report falls. These include Lancashire, Birmingham, Surrey and Kent.

Detection rate

In Lancashire, crime is down 6 per cent. Birmingham report a slight fall, together with a 5 per cent increase in the detection rate. In Kent crime has gone down by 2.4 per cent with a fall of 17 per cent in breaking offences. In Surrey last year's trend, when crime fell by just over 2 per cent, has continued.

In Sheffield the crime figures are just about steady, compared with an average annual increase of about 15 per cent over the last six years.

Although the figures are encouraging, not all forces can report crime falls. Manchester has had a depressing rise of 20 per cent in the first three months. The West Riding of Yorkshire and Cardiff also report increases.

These figures suggest that the improvements may not necessarily be maintained, but here again the

Tanker sinks after ocean explosion

IMUIDEN, HOLLAND, June 2.—The 14,000-ton West German tanker Essberger Chemist exploded and sank in the Atlantic south of the Azores tonight, shipping circles reported here.

The ship sank about 250 miles south of the Azores, according to information received from the Dutch tug Utrecht. The Utrecht was on its way to the tanker and expected to reach the spot tomorrow morning.

The explosion was said to have occurred about 1700 G.M.T. tonight. Four hours later the ship was reported to have sunk.

The Essberger Chemist is owned by John T. Essberger of Hamburg, according to Lloyd's Register of Shipping.—*Reuter.*

HAMBURG, SATURDAY MORNING.—The crew of about 40 are safe, the owners reported early today. In a radio message the captain said most of the crew were on board an American merchant ship on their way to Punta Delgado, in the Azores.—*Reuter.*

Gold reserves improve

BY KEITH PAYNE

Britain's gold and convertible

Mr Wilson Sees Risk Of Wider Conflict.
From LOUIS HEREN

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 03, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56958.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001667

Middle East Crisis

Israel is having to revise her economic policies

From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME, Tel Aviv, June 2

Israel is now having to readjust her mobilization and manpower planning to meet a situation for which she had not prepared. The country's use of manpower is based on the principle of a small regular Army capable of being increased eightfold in emergencies by reservists drawn from the civilian economy.

But the whole machinery is geared to a short emergency with almost total mobilization to achieve the maximum military impact at the price of the maximum economic disruption which could be borne for a short time. The only previous mobilization experience here was the Sinai campaign, which lasted seven days.

Now Israel is entering a third week with every prospect of weeks, if not months, of the same medicine ahead. The total nature of the mobilization plan has not hitherto shown the need for a selective service system, but this is now coming into being through extemporary modifications being evolved by the manpower and military planners.

For planning purposes the Israel labour force is divided into three sectors, which are the armed services, the essential factory and utilities, and, finally, those not covered by the first two. Last week saw priority being given to activating the armed services mobilization plan, but this is now superseded by attention to the essential utilities, and committees are also studying how best to readjust the overall economic policy, taking a prolonged emergency into account.

Possibility of additional powers

The importance of the non-essential sector lies in the general effect it will have on the nation's morale; and the Government's ability to administer stiff economic medicine raises some doubts here. As the economic editor of the *Jerusalem Post* asks today, are Ministers prepared to take the economic bull by the horns, which probably means asking for additional powers to establish full economic controls, import restrictions accompanied by a "flat nation-wide cut in all wages, pensions and dividends", and an end to the pretence that the economy can go on functioning as if nothing had happened.

The Government has powers of limited labour direction and is already arranging transfers of workers from non-essential work to fill vacancies in the essential sector, but there is a growing opinion here about the necessity for much more comprehensive planning to meet a total war effort and to be prepared, for instance, for such things as price controls if and when shortages begin to appear.

It is obvious that all this can be achieved physically but at a price, and the price has an important bearing on Israel's future.

Threat of rise in unemployment

The present emergency has achieved a temporary decrease in unemployment from 60,000 to 28,000 as vacancies filled which were caused by the call-up. The prolonged crisis will eventually cause a severe contraction in non-essential industries, however, followed by rising unemployment. The Government arranges relief work for the unemployed where possible, but there is no escaping the fact that unemployment is not the sort of sacrifice that people are prepared to make even in times of emergency.

Of more immediate concern are the harvest, which is in danger of being lost because of the call-up of agricultural workers, and the loss of probably millions of dollars from tourist cancellations. Though Israel's $600m. reserves are healthy at present, even they cannot be expected to support a prolonged period of reduced exports and continuing imports.

But the price that Israel has to pay to keep ready for action during this period of pressure diplomacy cannot be measured only in terms of immediate disruptions and sacrifices of the community. With efficient public relations—lacking so far—the Government should be able to persuade the public that sacrifices even over a period of weeks are worth while and that there is no alternative to restraint and all the discomfort that it implies.

General Moshe Dayan's appointment as Defence Minister should also satisfy the public that even if no military action is now possible there is a military activist at the head of affairs who can be expected to make the most of the next opportunity when it arises and who has probably got something up his sleeve already.

Disillusion over high taxes

But in the longer term the present emergency's effects may be far more incalculable. For one thing, Israel's economy is likely to need a long period of convalescence—it was just beginning one when the crisis blew up—and economic hardship coupled with prolonged and unrelieved tension is likely to have the twin effects of increasing emigration and discouraging immigration.

Israel's high taxes are largely put up with by a population reared on the overriding need to pay for defence, but people may feel disillusioned now, as Israel's defence posture appears to have been inadequate to cope with the present position.

International fund-raising for Israel will help the reserves position and such evidence of support is good for local morale but of little benefit to Israel's domestic economy. Indeed, the problem of once-and-for-all investments with little follow-up capital has been one of Israel's difficulties and many not altogether successful attempts are made to stimulate more home-based capital investment.

Israel's long-term economic future then, looks gloomy but is it likely that this high price which the people of Israel are paying will be tempered by any kind of military success to restore the balance of power in the Middle East? Not even General Dayan's appointment can alter the disadvantages which are evident in the military situation.

Difficulties of Egyptian Army

The slender hope is now appearing, however, that Egypt's army in Sinai is already experiencing logistical difficulties over water and fuel supplies. It remains to be seen whether this could be enough to bring about the reductions in Sinai called for by Israel.

Meanwhile, the presence of hostile armies in strength on all Israel's borders has forced the Government to revise its principle of a strong response to any border irritations. These occur now without any signs of Israel reaction. Yesterday's Jerusalem shooting was followed today by the deaths of two Israel soldiers and one Syrian in an incident near the Syrian border.

The only change in the situation now could be caused by the Arab countries taking advantage of this situation to push Israel's restraint too far. However there would have to be very evident provocation of a serious kind to justify any Israel action during the period when the western powers are being given the chance to work for a solution themselves.



Leaving London Airport yesterday for Tel Aviv—the first of more than 1,000 Britons who have volunteered to go to Israel to help to ease the labour shortage caused by mobilization.

First 70 fly out to help in Tel Aviv

FROM A STAFF REPORTER

The first 70 young volunteers to leave Britain for Israel, where they will carry out whatever non-military duties are required from them during the present emergency, flew from London Airport to Tel Aviv yesterday. They travelled in an El Al Boeing 707 on a scheduled flight.

They were seen off by Mr. Remez, the Israel Ambassador, who presented them with Bibles. A few tears were shed by parents and friends, but at the departure gates one sensed a feeling of quiet confidence that the volunteers would acquit themselves well, rather than any nervousness about their immediate future.

There were no signs of jingoism or foolhardy bravado among the young people, many still in their teens. Some of them had dropped everything to get to the airport at 24 hours' notice.

One woman from Golders Green told me that her son, aged 18, had just finished school. He had volunteered last Sunday. "I'm very proud of him", she said. "We feel that if the young people feel that way, we shouldn't stand in their way."

One young man who had been a civil servant in London until the previous day, said: "We have been called upon by the community to go to help in Israel. I have never been there before, but there could be no reason not to go and help Israel, which we love."

The volunteers had contacted the Jewish Agency either individually or through youth movements. Some will be reasonably well-equipped for working in Israel. A former Habonim youth leader in Liverpool told me he had spent the last seven months in Sussex training for life on a kibbutz.

Like others I spoke to, his long-term plans were to work in Israel. The present crisis in the Middle East had simply advanced the date.

El Al said that normally their flights would be heavily booked at this time of year, but added: "As you can imagine, at the moment our planes are not full of tourists."

Russia sees opportunity

FROM KYRIL TIDMARSH

MOSCOW, JUNE 2

Soviet interest in using the anti-western feelings, generated in Arab countries by the present Middle East crisis, to strengthen the position of Communist parties

General de Gaulle warns the warlike

From CHARLES HARGROVE, Paris, June 2

While giving the appearance of preserving a strictly uncommitted attitude, the French Government is engaged in intense diplomatic activity to help to promote a peaceful settlement in the Middle East—or at least to reduce the risk of armed conflict.

General de Gaulle's meeting with King Faisal of Saudi Arabia in Paris today was in line with his policy of keeping close contact with both sides in the crisis.

The situation was also discussed at today's meeting of the Council of Ministers, where the General said that France was involved in no capacity, on no issue, and with none of the countries concerned, but she considered that each of them had the right to exist.

Call repeated

"But she feels that the worst would be the outbreak of a conflict. Consequently the country which first resorts to arms would have neither her approval nor, *a fortiori*, her support."

The President repeated his call for a meeting of the four great powers to deal with the problem.

M. Gorse, the Minister of Information, said after the meeting that Russia had replied in a courteous but negative manner on the opportuneness of a meeting at which the United States would be represented. But the Russian reply was not negative in the matter of contacts.

The French proposal, informed circles maintain, was originally misunderstood by the Russians as a suggestion for a high-level conference which the Vietnam war obviously made impossible. In fact, the French idea was that contacts, formal or informal, should take place at whatever level was most promising.

M. Gorse emphasized that the French aim was to help to calm down feelings.

The Middle East problem could be solved only by an examination of all the basic problems arising between Israel and her neighbours, and these could not be resolved if there was not agreement on them among the four great powers.

For the immediate future, today's statements in practice mean two things: that France is opposed to any move which involves a trial of strength, such as forcing Egypt to recognize the international character of the Gulf of Aqaba by sending to the Israel port of Eilat the sort of vessel it has specifically banned; and that she does not believe in the virtue of a general declaration on navigation in the gulf along the lines proposed to her by Britain and the United States yesterday.

"A declaration by the maritime powers", M. Gorse said, "does not fit into the framework of the four-power contacts we wish for, and would not help matters forward."

Cairo hints at Suez sanctions

FROM PETER HOPKIRK

CAIRO, JUNE 2

Egypt today warned nations planning "collective action" against her over the Gulf of Aqaba that their "interests will be exposed to great danger". The warning was given in a statement by Mahmoud Riad, the Foreign Minister.

He did not specify what he meant by "interests", but there seems little doubt that he was referring to use of the Suez Canal.

According to the Cairo newspaper *Al Ahram*, Egypt is considering a plan to deny use of the canal to nations guilty of "military aggression" against her over Aqaba.

Riad was less specific about what would constitute "collective action". Some observers here wonder whether his statement could not contain a veiled threat that even economic pressure over the Gulf could be considered as "collective action" or "aggression" against Egypt and invite exclusion from use of the Suez Canal.

The only other foreign "interests" here are oil company installations, largely American, and the various foreign communities. At the time of the British-French Suez action, nationals of these two countries were well treated, although asked to leave Egypt.

WALTER JAMES

Sixth-form college as answer to Mr Crosland



Many people at the time said that it was unwise for the Government to go comprehensive educationally without a preliminary research. Actually a little preliminary thought would have helped. Mr. Crosland is now suffering the pains that are the aftermath of precipitancy.

When he started out in 1965 he told local authorities that the ideal solution was the all-through 11-18 comprehensive school on the London model. It is now being realized that however good some of these schools are individually they make an extremely bad model for the nation as a whole. This is because of the shortage of good graduate teachers of the kind who fing, the rest of the country may not have it also. The answer is that some London comprehensives have 60 to 70 per cent of graduates on their staffs. The percentage of graduates teaching in secondary schools throughout England and Wales, however, is only 38. Clearly, if an all-through organization is universalized, the best London standards cannot be matched.

It might be supposed that the expansion of universities would lead to a large increase in good graduate recruits to teaching. In fact, the trend is the other way. Opportunities in industry and higher education are causing a decline in school recruitment of dards of teaching a bright child might endure to 15, he should get three dazzling years of first rate tuition in the college. The place would be a draw for highly qualified graduates, for its work would be exactly to their taste, and quite possibly it would raise the number of them entering teaching. Rare subjects and awkward combinations of them would be easy to arrange.

If such colleges would offer parents a far better academic bargain than an all-through comprehensive, the system would also have its disadvantages. The more forward children might be marking time until they got there. They

Israel is having to revise her economic policies.
From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 03, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56958.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS167996611

Soviet shadow over UN truce officials

From NICHOLAS HERBERT, Jerusalem, June 2

Israel today told the United Nations that two of its men and one Syrian had been killed in a border clash in the early hours. The incident was alleged to have happened near the central demilitarized zone.

When I paid a visit this afternoon to the headquarters of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (Untso), high on the ridge in no-man's-land between Jordan and Israel, the Israel complaint had just come in. Lieutenant-General Odd Bull, the chief United Nations truce observer, was studying the detailed map of the area and one of the organization's 113 observers had been ordered to investigate.

Nothing had been heard from the Syrian side about the alleged incident, which Israel said occurred when a Syrian patrol was found some distance inside Israel.

12-nation staff

The incident, in which an Israeli was also reported wounded, was regarded by Untso officials as potentially the most serious since the Middle East crisis flared up. However, hey took comfort in the fact that Israel had made use of United Nations machinery and had offered to return the body of the Syrian.

Untso is now the only remaining United Nations presence of a peace-keeping nature, although it is not financed as a peace-keeping operation and is therefore not subject to the objections of the Soviet Union and France.

It is at present staffed by representatives of 12 north American, west European and Australasian nations, but if it were to be strengthened the composition would almost certainly be changed at the same time. Much would probably depend on whether the Soviet Union, with its increasing responsibilities in the area would be willing to take part.

Amman radio announced tonight that Iraq units had arrived in Jordan to take up positions on the Jordan front as they have already done in Egypt and Syria. Earlier today hundreds of chanting Palestinian demonstrators staged a noisy march through Jerusalem streets within easy earshot of Israel. They carried anti-American signs and applauded the new defence agreement between Jordan and the United Arab Republic.

A mounted veteran of the 1948 Arab-Israel war led one group through the narrow alleys of the Old City, pointing his rifle towards Israel and chanting, "We shall return to our occupied land". Another more youthful band brandished coloured pictures of President Nasser and shouted, "Egypt and Jordan are one nation. We are all Arabs together. We will make war in this land".

They had been whipped up at Friday prayers in the al Aqsa mosque by Mr. Ahmed Shukairy, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, who thanked God that he had returned to the city of holy war.

"We are now face to face with Israel and are supported by troops from all Arab countries", he said. "I hope the new defence agreement will be transferred from the paper it is written on to the battlefield." He was carried shoulder-high from the mosque and shots were fired in the air by jubilant supporters.

Soviet shadow over UN truce officials.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 03, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56958.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS168127683

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Russia sees opportunity

FROM KYRIL TIDMARSH

MOSCOW, JUNE 2

Soviet interest in using the anti-western feelings, generated in Arab countries by the present Middle East crisis, to strengthen the position of Communist parties at present banned there was clearly visible today in *Pravda's* extensive reprint of a resolution adopted by a meeting of Communists from Arab countries.

With Cairo and Damascus now heavily dependent on the Soviet Union both for diplomatic and economic support in their confrontation with Israel, the Russians are not wasting the opportunity to suggest that the alleged common challenge from imperialism and the Jews, which brought together very different Arab states, should also lead to a recognition of Communist parties and the formation of united fronts with them.

Paradoxically Communist parties are restricted in the "anti-imperialist" Arab countries like the U.A.R., Syria and Algeria but allowed in Israel which is now presented as the tool of imperialism.

The long report from Beirut on two pages of *Pravda* does not mention the fact that the Communist Party is outlawed in Egypt, which is at present regarded as the principal anti-imperialist Power in the area. But it quoted the Arab Communist's view that "cooperation of Communist, revolutionary and patriotic forces is essential for repelling the fierce attacks of imperialism and reaction against the Arab states".

Iran's envoy sees Mr Thomson

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC STAFF

Mr. Abbas Aram, the Iranian Ambassador in London, yesterday called on Mr. George Thomson, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, to discuss the Middle East situation. Iran's position is one of cautious support for President Nasser although, like other Islamic monarchies, it has generally been on bad terms with him in the past.

Baron Jean van den Bosch, the Belgian Ambassador, also called on Mr. Thomson.

First 70 fly out to help in Tel Aviv.
FROM A STAFF REPORTER

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 03, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56958.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS168258755

General de Gaulle warns the warlike

From CHARLES HARGROVE, Paris, June 2

While giving the appearance of preserving a strictly uncommitted attitude, the French Government is engaged in intense diplomatic activity to help to promote a peaceful settlement in the Middle East—or at least to reduce the risk of armed conflict.

General de Gaulle's meeting with King Faisal of Saudi Arabia in Paris today was in line with his policy of keeping close contact with both sides in the crisis.

The situation was also discussed at today's meeting of the Council of Ministers, where the General said that France was involved in no capacity, on no issue, and with none of the countries concerned, but she considered that each of them had the right to exist.

Call repeated

"But she feels that the worst would be the outbreak of a conflict. Consequently the country which first resorts to arms would have neither her approval nor, *a fortiori*, her support."

The President repeated his call for a meeting of the four great powers to deal with the problem.

M. Gorse, the Minister of Information, said after the meeting that Russia had replied in a courteous but negative manner on the opportuneness of a meeting at which the United States would be represented. But the Russian reply was not negative in the matter of contacts.

The French proposal, informed circles maintain, was originally misunderstood by the Russians as a suggestion for a high-level conference which the Vietnam war obviously made impossible. In fact, the French idea was that contacts, formal or informal, should take place at whatever level was most promising.

M. Gorse emphasized that the French aim was to help to calm down feelings.

The Middle East problem could be solved only by an examination of all the basic problems arising between Israel and her neighbours, and these could not be resolved if there was not agreement on them among the four great powers.

For the immediate future, today's statements in practice mean two things: that France is opposed to any move which involves a trial of strength, such as forcing Egypt to recognize the international character of the Gulf of Aqaba by sending to the Israel port of Eilat the sort of vessel it has specifically banned; and that she does not believe in the virtue of a general declaration on navigation in the gulf along the lines proposed to her by Britain and the United States yesterday.

"A declaration by the maritime powers", M. Gorse said, "does not fit into the framework of the four-power contacts we wish for, and would not help matters forward."

General de Gaulle warns the warlike.
From CHARLES HARGROVE

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 03, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56958.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS168389827

Cairo hints at Suez sanctions

FROM PETER HOPKIRK

CAIRO, JUNE 2

Egypt today warned nations planning "collective action" against her over the Gulf of Aqaba that their "interests will be exposed to great danger". The warning was given in a statement by Mahmoud Riad, the Foreign Minister.

He did not specify what he meant by "interests", but there seems little doubt that he was referring to use of the Suez Canal.

According to the Cairo newspaper *Al Ahram*, Egypt is considering a plan to deny use of the canal to nations guilty of "military aggression" against her over Aqaba.

Riad was less specific about what would constitute "collective action". Some observers here wonder whether his statement could not contain a veiled threat that even economic pressure over the Gulf could be considered as "collective action" or "aggression" against Egypt and invite exclusion from use of the Suez Canal.

The only other foreign "interests" here are oil company installations, largely American, and the various foreign communities. At the time of the British-French Suez action, nationals of these two countries were well treated, although asked to leave Egypt.

Cairo hints at Suez sanctions.
FROM PETER HOPKIRK

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 03, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56958.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS168651971

ISRAEL AND THE ARABS

From Sir Peter Agnew

Sir,—In your leader this morning (June 1) you state that Russia should declare publicly that peace in the Middle East cannot include the destruction of one Middle Eastern state.

Colonel Nasser has been trying for four years to destroy the independence of Yemen with a great army pitted against the Imam's ill-equipped forces. What wonder that the Royal Government, sorely tried as it is, cries out now for those Egyptian troops to be taken away from Yemen and deployed elsewhere? Surely the actual and continuing aggression by Egypt in that country merits the attention of all peace-loving governments at the same time as the grave problems which beset Israel.

Yours faithfully,

PETER AGNEW.

2 Smith Square, S.W.1.

Worker participation

From Mr. Geoffrey Stuttard

Sir,—Ironically, my recent experience links together two of your leaders—one on "Workers on the Board" (May 22), and others on Israel—as I have been in that country looking at workers' participation in industry until a short time ago.

The irony lies in the fact that Israel, which is now being threatened with the large-scale problem of extinction, in which we seem so far to have been of little help to them, has in many ways solved *our* problem, a smaller-scale one, of workers' participation, and would be only too pleased to give us all the assistance they can in this field.

Experiments like the *Kibbutz*, the *Moshav*, the *Moshav Shitufi*, where all concerned combine the role of managers and workers—together with service co-operatives like the Egged Transport Company, with the trade union-employer-owner complex of the *Histadrut*—offer practical examples to us of what can be done. They still have their difficulties, but at least there is a full-scale department of the *Histadrut* whose job it is to develop more workers' participation.

I know others in varied social and scientific fields could testify to the vitality and imagination which modern Israelis are bringing to the solution of problems which are of value to the whole world, not least to the U.S.S.R., and to the developing countries. It would be unthinkable if such valuable research and practical developments were to be lost—developments in the agricultural field of course which could be vital to the future of the Arab countries!

Yours, &c.,

GEOFFREY STUTTARD, Staff Tutor in Industrial Relations.

Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of London, 7 Ridgmount Street, W.C.1, June 1.

Israel And The Arabs.
PETER AGNEW. 2 Smith Square, S.W.1 and GEOFFREY STUTTARD. Staff Tutor in Industrial Relations. Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of London, 7 Ridgmount Street, W.C.1, June 1

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 03, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56958.

Category: Letters to the Editor

Gale Document Number:CS185560259

Nasser's 'No' to Britain and US

FROM PETER HOPKIRK

CAIRO, JUNE 4

President Nasser tonight declared that the Arabs would never recognize any declaration by the maritime nations on the freedom of passage through the Strait of Tiran.

"We shall consider any declaration by them as a transgression of our sovereignty", he said. It would be considered a preliminary to an act of war.

The Arabs, he said, today stood as one man in the face of aggression.

Iraq in pact

Just before this he had triumphantly announced in a broadcast that Iraq had joined Egypt and Jordan in the defence pact that they signed in Cairo last week.

It is assumed that this means that Iraq troops will be allowed to pass through Jordan to the Israel frontier.

In his speech he accused Mr Wilson of "living in the past" when he spoke of the possible return to the area of the United Nations Emergency Force.

Italy hinted strongly today that she would not sign a declaration on the Strait of Tiran.

CAIRO, June 4.—Vice-President Zakaria Mohieddin of the United Arab Republic is expected to fly to Washington on Wednesday for talks with President Johnson, informed sources said here tonight. —*Reuter.*

Other Middle East news—Page 4.

Nasser's 'No' to Britain and US.
FROM PETER HOPKIRK

The Times (London, England),Monday, Jun 05, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56959.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS18181317

Jews serve in UAR Army

From PETER HOPKIRK

CAIRO, JUNE 4

Among massed Egyptian forces confronting Israel in Sinai and Gaza there are almost certainly Jewish soldiers, I learned today.

Whether there are any in the actual front line, presumably manned by regular troops, it is not possible to say, but like other Egyptians over the age of 19, young Jews too have been called to the reserves.

In the event of a war between Egypt and Israel, these could find themselves fighting fellow Jews on the battlefield.

The very existence of a 2,600 strong Jewish community in Egypt may come as a surprise to many people, although it emphasizes a point the Egyptians never tire of making—that it is Israel they aim to destroy not the Jews.

Equal rights

Like other minority groups here, Jews have full Egyptian citizenship, with equal rights and responsibilities.

In the Cairo telephone directory alone I found 26 Cohens. The majority of the Jews live in a poorer quarter of the city.

Ninety per cent of Jews living in Egypt today are Egyptian born and regard themselves as Egyptians, I was told today by Chief Rabbi Haim Douek. I talked with him and other leading Egyptian Jews in his office in the old part of Cairo.

Behind his chair, on the wall, was a portrait of President Nasser. I asked him if Egyptian Jews encountered hostility from the rest of the community. "No", he said. "Of course, there are occasional incidents but you get these everywhere, even in England.

"But the Government does all it can to prevent them. Anyone found guilty of causing an incident of this kind is punished."

He had not heard of any anti-Jewish incident since the present crisis began, he said.

"Most of us have Muslim friends and neighbours", he said.

Although their children went to state schools there was complete freedom of worship. There were 26 synagogues in Egypt.

Jews serve in UAR Army.
From PETER HOPKIRK

The Times (London, England),Monday, Jun 05, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56959.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67464389

WARNING TO BRITAIN BY KING HUSAIN

Danger of losing Arab friends

From NICHOLAS HERBERT—Amman, June 4

King Husain of Jordan today warned Britain and the United States that they stood to lose their friends in the Arab world for ever if they fell into the Zionist trap of supporting Israel in the present crisis.

"There are no words by which I can express my disappointment at the attitude that the British Government has taken with regard to the Gulf of Aqaba", he told a crowded press conference at his palace in Amman.

The King interrupted the conference to take a telephone call from President Nasser in Cairo and returned to announce that Iraq had become a party to the Egypt-Jordan defence agreement.

This provides that an attack on one signatory is regarded as an attack on the other. It is not clear here whether, as in Jordan's case, the Iraq armed forces would come under Egyptian command in the event of war.

Differences past

Describing the situation as very grave, the King said the possibility was "great" that Israel might choose to start a war in the next few days. Otherwise it might wait in the hopes that Arab unity would dissolve.

He declined to explain the reason for a heavy airlift from Egypt yesterday or confirm reports that Iraq troops were now stationed on the Jordan front. Nor would he discuss whether any moves were being made to coordinate military strategy with Syria, which still appears unhappy over the defence agreement. All differences so far as Jordan was concerned were now put behind, he said, and he had nothing against any of his Arab brethren.

The King had earlier interviewed each head of diplomatic mission in Jordan, outlining the belief that the Gulf of Aqaba had always been Arab water and that Israel had no right to be there in the first place. It was in answer to a question about the British proposal for a declaration by the maritime powers that the gulf was an international waterway that he delivered his warning to Britain.

Extremely displeased

"Britain should be aware" he said, "that this Arab nation is one, and Britain has a very clear choice of fighting Israel's battles and fighting all of us or remaining aloof and neutral—which is the least we expect —or of standing in support of our rights and our just cause." He was extremely displeased and extremely disappointed with Britain's stand.

He added later that it might be the last straw that broke the camel's back, and he hoped Britain would look closely, seriously and in accordance with her interests at a situation which threatened world peace.

He had similar words for the United States, but indicated a belief that the situation had not reached the point of no return. Jordan's Army was American-equipped and no difficulty had arisen yet about supplies.

He hoped the reporters would be able to convey, in spite of the obstacles put in their way, the very grave and serious consequences of nations falling into the Zionist trap, not only for this area but for the whole world.

Personal appeal

I understand that the King has addressed a personal appeal, through the American Embassy here, to President Johnson, and today he said that any nation which fought Israel's battles against the Arabs would "become our enemy for all time".

He added: "We have no very clear evidence that the United States has chosen to adopt this position. I sincerely hope that the highest responsible leaders in the United States will look very closely at the problem and understand its effects."

These were strong words, but they reflected the growing dissatisfaction with British and American policy, which has resulted in the American Embassy sending the wives and children of diplomatists out of the country.

This is in strong contrast with the attitude to France, and King Husain today had warm praise for General de Gaulle.

ALGIERS, June 4.—Colonel Boumédienne, the Algerian Prime Minister, said today that the British and Americans—whom he charged with pilfering Arab wealth, notably oil—must leave the Arab world.

In a speech at a mass meeting in Sidi-bel-Abbès, broadcast by the Algerian radio, he said: "The Arab struggle must lead to the liquidation of Israel and the American and British bases in the Arab world."—*New York Times News Service.*

Independent line by Rumania

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

VIENNA, JUNE 4

While communist propaganda blasts Britain and the United States and denounces Israel as the main culprits of the Middle East crisis, the Rumanians have refrained from passing judgment or from committing themselves to either side. This is fresh confirmation that in contrast to Warsaw, Prague, Sofia, Budapest and east Berlin, Bucharest has a policy of its own and is refusing to back Soviet policy in the Middle East.

Svetlana tell tried to res

NEW YORK, June 4.—Mrs. Svetlana Alliluyeva, Stalin's daughter, says that Mr. Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, tried to dissuade her from carrying her husband's ashes to India, *McCall's Magazine* said today.

In a copyrighted article *McCall's* said that the 42-year-old widow of Brijesh Singh told the magazine that her original application for permis-

Warning To Britain By King Husain.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Monday, Jun 05, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56959.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67857605

S ARABIAN PROTEST ON GAS ATTACKS

'Barbaric destruction' by Egypt

From MICHAEL WOLFERS, Aden, June 4

South Arabia's elder statesman, the Sharif of Baihan, broke a self-imposed political isolation of more than two years this weekend by sending a strongly-worded message to President Nasser about the use of poison gas in Yemen. He appealed for an end to "barbaric destruction" by poison gas, which is said to have killed several hundreds of tribesmen and their families in royalist Yemen districts.

The Sharif's appeal comes immediately after the first affirmation by the International Red Cross that poison gas bombs have been used in attacks on Yemen villages. Russian aircraft bearing United Arab Republic markings have been described by witnesses and victims of gas attacks.

Red Cross verdict

Red Cross verdict comes after four years of allegations that the Egyptians were using poison gas. Reports from Yemen seem to be the reason behind Israel's urgent request to west Germany for 20,000 gasmasks. A Federal Minister, Husain Bayoomi, yesterday sent an appeal to Lord Russell for his help in persuading Egypt to abandon the use of poison gas in Yemen.

The Sharif's protest to President Nasser was triggered by the death in Baihan of a refugee from the royalist centre of Sarwah in Yemen, where last week more than 100 persons were killed in believedly gas bombing. In Baihan yesterday I spoke to witnesses of the death of the gas victim, Sharif Abdulla bin Ali.

Witnesses, who included local judges and a qualified British doctor, spoke of Sharif Abdulla crouched over a bed with blackened tongue, vomiting blood, and dowsing himself with cold water to escape the burning sensation. Medical evidence is that the man died of pneumonia with symptoms consistent with gas poisoning. One witness said: "People here did not believe in gas poisoning until they saw it with their own eyes".

Sharif Abdullah and three other men who came across the Yemen border told those who treated them of the Sarwah attack. They saw five aircraft with red, white and green tail markings, of which one dropped five "barrel-like" cannisters, while the other four aircraft covered the attack. People in the town and in the royalist camp close by felt ill within 15 minutes and many died.

Sixteen Marib tribesmen began a road journey to Baihan where their kinsmen live, and of the 16 nine died reportedly at the start of the journey and three more on the way. Of the four who reached Baihan, a border state north of Aden, one died, one showed slight pneumonia symptoms and two seemed unaffected. Sharif Abdulla died on the day of his arrival.

The Sharif of Baihan's message to President Nasser says "people of Yemen have for five years been subjected to torture and destruction by a Muslim Arab state which assumes leadership in the Arab countries." He also says: "I wish to draw your attention to these inhuman tragedies which you probably know nothing about," but this is regarded here as facesaving formula.

Mob attacks U S embassy

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 4

Demonstrators in Singapore this evening broke all ground floor windows of the American Embassy, burned a car parked outside, and pulled down an American flag.

About 100 people, many waving red flags, took part in the demonstration, which was apparently directed originally against proposed industrial legislation and treatment of political detainees.

S Arabian Protest On Gas Attacks.
From MICHAEL WOLFERS

The Times (London, England),Monday, Jun 05, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56959.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS85159109

ISRAEL CLAIMS SINAI GAINS

EGYPT'S ALLIES SEND IN THEIR PLANES

British call for cease-fire

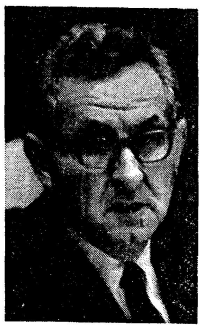
Israel claimed early today that in a day of battling with the combined forces of the Arab nations, its troops had captured the key town of El Arish in north Sinai and were advancing towards Abu Gela. Earlier it was announced that Khan Yunis had been occupied, isolating the Egyptian forces in the Gaza Strip.

The Middle East became engulfed in war when fighting broke out along the Israel-Egyptian frontier with tanks and aircraft engaged. Four nations allied with Egypt—Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq—threw their air forces into the struggle. The land battle spread to Jerusalem and parts of the Israel-Jordan frontier.

Air raid sirens sounded in Cairo and in Tel Aviv and both sides claimed the destruction of numbers of aircraft.

Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, told the Commons that Britain's concern was not to take sides in the conflict but to work for an early cease-fire. He reported anti-British demonstrations in Benghazi, Tripoli, Tunis, and Basra.

The Royal Navy last night began an important deployment of ships—notably the sending of the frigate Eskimo through the Suez Canal to join the group off Aden.



Mr. Gideon Rafael, of Israel, speaking in the Security Council yesterday, when he claimed that Israel had acted in self-defence against Egyptian attacks.

Views differ in Security Council

FROM OUR UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, JUNE 5

Galvanized out of its inaction by the outbreak of war in the Middle East, the United Nations Security Council met in emergency session this morning at the instance of its President, Mr. Hans Tabor (Denmark), but could not agree on how to end the fighting.

After a brief, abortive public meeting, the president recessed the council temporarily so that private talks could be held and agreement be reached on the formula for a ceasefire.

However, the talks showed that some members (such as Russia) wanted to blame Israel for "aggression", while others (such as the United States and Britain) would prefer a straightforward and urgent call for a cease-fire.

At the outset of its public session, the council heard a grave report on developments by U Thant, the Secretary-General, based partly on partisan claims by the contending nations, and partly on news received from United Nations sources.

U Thant said that on the basis of these reports, he was not able to determine which side had started the fighting.

Indians killed

UNITED NATIONS, June 5.—U Thant, the Secretary-General, tonight protested to Israel about the deaths of three Indian soldiers of the United Nations Emergency Force reported killed in a strafing attack by Israel aircraft in the Gaza area.

U Thant also supported Pope Paul's plea that Jerusalem be declared an open city.—*Reuter.*

WARSHIP OPENS FIRE OFF TEL AVIV

From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME, Tel Aviv June 5

I saw a warship stand offshore from Tel Aviv, shelling targets inland from the city intermittently for 20 minutes. The fire was not returned. The ship then sailed northwards, and later there was again the sound of naval gunfire.

Tel Aviv's blackout is total. Mortar and artillery fire from Jordan was almost continuous as darkness fell.

Mr. Eshkol, the Prime Minister, in a Knesset statement, said that the Egyptian Air Force had taken a great beating, and the Syrian and Jordan Air Forces were largely destroyed.

After one day's fighting the Israel armed forces appear to be jubilant tonight. They have already inflicted a defeat on the Egyptian forces in Sinai which goes beyond their expectations. But soon after dusk tonight the Tel Aviv area was shelled for about 20 minutes (censored).

The battle in Sinai began at 8 a.m. (Censored). There are reports that they have knocked out airfields in Sinai. There can be no finality until it becomes clear whether the Egyptians repair their airfields, or accept the fact that their Air Force is, to all intents, out of action.

Armour's advance

Five air raid warnings sounded before 3 o'clock, then there was a lull until 6 o'clock before sundown, when the sirens went again. The lull suggested that Israel had indeed got in the first strike this morning. Later Israel's strikes were mounted on Syria in retaliation for two air attacks by Syrian fighters.

With a favourable air situation, Israel armour is said to have advanced (Censored). Without air cover Egypt's armour would be seriously weakened.

On Israel's other two fronts fighting has been spasmodic, although there is still tonight the thump of artillery from the direction of Jordan. Israel tanks regained possession of the old High Commission building in Jerusalem which had been taken by Jordan infantry. The building houses the United Nations mission and Lieutenant-General Odd Bull, the Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organization, was held captive by the Jordanians.

The Syrian attacks were mounted at Megiddo, in the Haifa region.

It remains to be seen if the Israel victory is really as complete as officers suggest tonight. Tel Aviv may be faced with an air attack tonight (censored). Moreover, on the political plane it is still hard to see what Israel's objectives are.

Outbreak a surprise

Today's fighting has taken everybody by surprise. Its efficiency bears the mark of great preparation but there is no evidence that it is really premeditated.

Listing the enemy losses, General Rabin said the Egyptian Air Force lost 286 aircraft, Syria 52, Jordan 27, and Iraq 9.

The Egyptian Air Force losses, he said, were 30 Tupolev-16 bombers; 26 light bombers of the Ilyushin-28 type; 12 bomber-fighters of the Sohoi-7 type only recently acquired from the Soviet Union; 90 MIG-21 jet fighters; 20 MIG-17s; 75 MIG 15-17s; and 30 other transport planes and helicopters.

The Syrian aircraft were 30 MIG-21S, 20 MIG-17S, and two Ilyushin-28 bombers. The Jordan losses were 20 Hawker Hunter fighter-bombers and seven transport aircraft and helicopters. Iraq losses were six MIG-21S and three Hunters.

Israel's 19 losses were four Ouragans, four Mystères, four Super-Mystères, four Fouga-Magisters, two Mirage jet fighters, and one Vautour.—*Reuter.*

BEIRUT, Tuesday morning.—Amman radio announced early today that Israeli planes fired on King Husain's palace during a raid on Amman airport yesterday, causing some damage but no casualties.—*Reuter.*

BEIRUT, Tuesday morning.—Baghdad radio said early today that Iraqi forces had penetrated deep into Israel territory "annihilating enemy positions". It gave no further details.—*Reuter.*





Jordan Army vehicles, with anti-aircraft machine guns mounted, patrol the streets of Amman, while (below) one of Jerusalem's first Israeli casualties is led to a first aid post.

Confusion on neutrality of US

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, JUNE 5

Mr. Robert McCloskey, the State Department press officer, announced today that the United States declared itself a neutral in the Middle East conflict. "Our position is neutral in thought, word and deed", he said.

This declaration of strict neutrality was subsequently weakened by Mr. George Christian, the White House press secretary, who said that it had not been cleared by the White House.

Talks on oil

He refused to depart from past presidential statements, except to state the obvious. The United States was not a belligerent, and was seeking a peaceful settlement.

Mr. McCloskey also reported that all military and civilian aid programmes to countries in the Middle East are "urgently under review". All United States passports were being declared invalid for travel to countries involved in the conflict.

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Parliamentary report 7
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Israel bears brunt .. 11

FOUR BIG POWERS IN CONTACT

Mr Wilson reports today

By DAVID WOOD, Political Correspondent

Mr. Wilson left Mr. Brown, the Foreign Secretary, to make a statement in the Commons yesterday on the outbreak of war between Israel and the Arab states in the knowledge that this afternoon he will report to the House on his talks with President Johnson in Washington last Friday and with U Thant at the United Nations on Saturday.

The talks were dominated by consideration of international moves to keep the peace in the Middle East, and inevitably most of the detail has been overtaken by yesterday's events.

Throughout yesterday Mr. Wilson was exchanging messages on the crisis with President Johnson, Mr. Kosygin, President de Gaulle, and U Thant. It may be assumed that the "hot line" to Washington was in use, but not all the messages to Washington, Moscow, and Paris were passed directly between heads of government.

During the day Mr. Wilson called Mr. Brown to 10 Downing Street to give the first reports of the outbreak of fighting, and two hours later he called in Mr. Brown, Mr. Healey, the Defence Secretary, and Field Marshal Sir Richard Hull, Chief of the Defence Staff.

Not taking sides

There was no urgent need to call a meeting of the Cabinet, although they will meet this morning. A Cabinet decision was taken last week, before Mr. Wilson left for Ottawa and Washington, that Britain would not take sides if war broke out between Israel and her Arab neighbours, and that British forces in the area would be

Five freed in Ben Barka trial

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

PARIS, JUNE 5

The Ben Barka trial, which lasted for more than 70 days in two separate proceedings, has lived up to its reputation for unpredictability.

This evening the jury of the assize court of the Seine, after deliberating for two and a half hours, acquitted five of the seven accused and sentenced two others to prison terms which fell far short of the prosecution's demands.

Antoine Lopez, former senior official of Air France and "correspondent" of the S.D.E.C.E., the French counter-espionage organi-

Israel Claims Sinai Gains.
From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 06, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56960.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001670

DIN OF FIRING IN HOLY CITY

JERUSALEM TRUCES BROKEN

From NICHOLAS HERBERT—Jerusalem, June

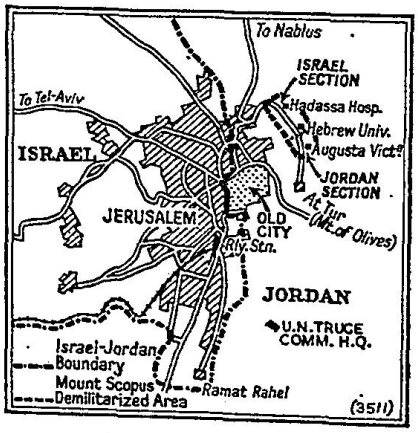
Jordan today declared war on Israel and fighting broke out round the holy city of Jerusalem soon afterwards. Israel and Jordan forces exchanged heavy mortar and automatic weapons fire across the divided city. Great puffs of smoke mushroomed on Mount Scopus and near the Mandelbaum Gate, which has been the only direct link between the Arab world and Israel since the city was partitioned in 1948.

Everywhere the crackle of heavy automatic fire and the crump of heavier artillery echoed through the narrow deserted streets, rattling windows and shaking the foundations of empty hotels.

Cheering youths

When I arrived from Amman, only minutes before the fighting broke out, enthusiastic citizens were rushing to collect arms and evacuate women and children. My taxi was stopped by one excited mob who asked me to take two old peasant women and one baby to the bus stop near the Damascus Gate into the Old City.

Along the hilltops east of the city troops were digging in and



armoured vehicles stood ready, their guns pointed skywards as if waiting for an air attack.

Everywhere enthusiastic youths cheered radio announcements from Cairo that 44 Israel aircraft had been shot down over Egypt. The youths raised their clenched fists in the air and shouted their pleasure. One told me: "It is a great day for the Arabs. We shall all fight." Later announcements of Syrian air actions over Israel and support from Saudi Arabia were also cheered, and martial music resounded through the city from countless radio sets.

Amman radio said that Jordan and Syrian aircraft were bombing airfields inside Israel

By early afternoon there had been no air action directly over Jerusalem, with its priceless treasures and buildings. There was, however, an air attack on Amman and bombs could be heard falling in the distance.

The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization twice arranged a cease-fire in Jerusalem but each time, although both sides had accepted it, firing broke out again.

Consulate bullet

King Husain, in a broadcast calling for self-restraint and order, said: "We are at the beginning of the decisive battle. It has just begun and we hope in the end it will bring victory."

At the British Consulate Mr. J. W. Pethybridge, the Consul, narrowly escaped being hit by a bullet which came through the window while he was burning official documents. An official at the consulate said: "There is some pretty big stuff around us, but we are all right."

Jerusalem Truces Broken.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 06, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56960.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17263814

Cairo claims nine pilots captured

Plane swoops over city

From PETER HOPKIRK, Cairo June 5

Thousands of Egyptians in the streets of Cairo got their first glimpse of war today when an Israel Mystère fighter bomber swept across the city through a barrage of anti-aircraft fire. It vanished towards the citadel to the north of the capital. Word quickly got round that it had been shot down and immediately crowds hurried towards the citadel.

I was standing in the Canadian Embassy garden when the lone aircraft flew over. The staff took cover as rapid-fire guns near by opened up on it.

Later I toured the area where the aircraft was said to have fallen, but saw no wreckage.

Earlier a British airline employee reported seeing two bombs explode at the airport. There are no signs of the city itself being bombed yet, although there were three alerts in Cairo during the morning and afternoon.

First shock

Cairo radio said an American tanker had attempted to block the Suez Canal, and that Israel had tried to hit a French tanker passing through the canal. The radio also claimed a total of nine Israel pilots captured, naming one as Lavo Mordecai. He was quoted as telling Egyptian officers that his unit had been ordered to attack at 6 a.m. The commentator said this showed Israel had started the attack.

Both sides have reported an all-day armoured battle at Khan Yunis in northern Sinai.

The first shock of war hit Cairo at 9 a.m. when a series of heavy explosions shook the capital and sent people running into the streets. Soon afterwards a communiqué said that the Israelis had attacked targets, including Cairo, and had lost 42 aircraft.

Explosions continued to rock the city and anti-aircraft shells were seen bursting over the suburbs to the east. No aircraft were seen.

Cairo radio called on the people to join battle and "liquidate Zionism for ever". The huge crowds which collected in the streets and listened to the radio announcements cheered each time a new victory was proclaimed. Martial music was played between the announcements from the battle front.

The whole atmosphere in the city was one of great excitement and confidence in the country's forces.

As I drove to the cable office my taxi was stopped 12 times by policemen demanding my credentials.

Senior members of the staff of the British interests section of the Canadian Embassy were holding an urgent meeting to consider how to evacuate British subjects, few of whom left when warned by the British Government to go. As the airport is closed to civil aircraft, the only possible way would be by sea if the Egyptian Government agreed.

It is believed that there are something like 400 or 500 Britons here who regard Britain as home, as well as many more from Cyprus and Malta.

It is understood that western nations with citizens living in Egypt have a plan to rush ships to Alexandria if necessary to evacuate them.

Norway pins its hopes on UN

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

OSLO, JUNE 5

The Middle East conflict was discussed at a special Cabinet meeting in Oslo today. A government statement later expressed the hope that the United Nations will succeed in stopping the fighting and that the parties will accept United Nations participation in securing peace.

It is confirmed that the Norwegian Government has received proposals from both the British and American governments for a declaration concerning navigation through the Strait of Tiran. These are regarded in official quarters as "the basis for discussions".

Three airports closed

A spokesman for Middle East Airlines in London said yesterday that they knew Cairo, Damascus, and Amman airports were closed. The position of Beirut, through which all their flights to and from London are routed, was not clear.

Cairo claims nine pilots captured.
From PETER HOPKIRK

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 06, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56960.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67333318

THE POPE'S APPEAL TO SAVE JERUSALEM

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—Rome, June 5

The Pope today appealed to the Governments of Israel and Egypt to declare Jerusalem an "open and inviolable city" which would be protected from damage by both sides in the Middle East war.

He made the urgent request through Vatican representatives in Cairo and Tel Aviv, and in a telegram to U Thant in New York, in which he also urged the Secretary-General to help to halt the hostilities.

The Pope telegraphed the following message to U Thant: "We are profoundly grieved and worried about the development of events in the Middle East and, while we pray that divine mercy will preserve that area and the world from suffering and destruction, we ask you to make every effort so that the United Nations organization can succeed in halting the conflict.

"We express in the name of Christianity the fervent hope that in the unfortunate eventuality of an aggravation of the situation—which we firmly trust cannot ever happen—Jerusalem, because of its uniquely sacred and holy nature, can be declared an open and inviolable city."

'Sacred duty'

Cardinal Cicognani, the Vatican Secretary of State, sent a message to Monsignor Sepinski, the Apostolic Delegate in Jerusalem, ordering him to ask the Israel Government to halt hostilities and to resort to the United Nations to solve the situation.

He said the Holy See considers it a "sacred duty" to save the holy places in the area, and announced that the Vatican wants to declare Jerusalem an open city.

An identical message was sent to Monsignor Lino Zanini, the Vatican Internunzio in Cairo. It was also reported that the Pope sent a message to the King of Jordan, and that pontifical representatives in Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq were ordered to take the Pope's message to those governments.

It was learnt today that the Pope sent messages on May 27 to Vatican representatives in Cairo and Tel Aviv ordering them to make clear to the Egyptian and Israel Governments the "absolute necessity of preserving the peace . . . and with the special hope that no incident, even if involuntary, would prejudice that peace".

Arrivals from Israel

The Italian Government today also sent an appeal to U Thant to "put an end to dilatory procedures in order to reach a solution with all possible speed."

Passengers arriving at Rome airport in the last airliners to leave Tel Aviv reported that the city was in a state of alarm. But two Israel rabbis said: "The country's morale is high, indeed very high."

Mr. David Horowitz, Governor of the Central Bank of Israel, said on his arrival in Rome this morning for a European investment bank meeting that "Israel's economy is in very satisfactory condition." There were large reserves of food, and mobilization had not influenced the production capacity of the country.

The Pope's Appeal To Save Jerusalem.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 06, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56960.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67464390

How the Arabs rallied to the support of Egypt

Egypt's friends and allies threw themselves into the war, or took other measures against Israel, throughout yesterday. Some of them were:—

SYRIA.—An announcement was made that its aircraft were bombing Israel cities, and later it claimed to have bombed the Haifa refinery and set it ablaze.

JORDAN.—Its aircraft were stated to have bombed Israel territory, and its ground forces to have destroyed eight Israeli tanks near Jerusalem.

LEBANON.—Rashid Karami, the Prime Minister, said: "The battle has started and we are fully prepared for it." Lebanese pilots claimed to have shot down an Israel jet over central Lebanon.

IRAQ.—A state of war with Israel was announced, and a warning given that any state assisting Israel would be considered to be committing an act of aggression against Iraq. Iraq aircraft were said to have destroyed seven Israel aircraft in a raid on one base, and the Air Force claimed to have bombed Tel Aviv.

SAUDI ARABIA.—King Faisal sent a message of support to President Nasser and Mecca radio said that Saudi Arabian troops had entered Jordan "to fight on the side of our Arab brothers".

KUWAIT.—The radio broadcast a decree from Shaikh Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah, the Amir, proclaiming a "defensive war between Kuwait and Zionist gangs in occupied Palestine". The Amir said that "the hour of sacrifice has come".

SUDAN.—Muhammad Mahgoub, the Prime Minister, issued a declaration of war on Israel while crowds rushed into the Constituent Assembly demanding arms. The Prime Minister said that Sudanese troops were leaving for the United Arab Republic. The police put a guard on the American embassy while hostile demonstrators swarmed in Khartum.

ALGERIA.—An Army contingent was due to leave last night for the Middle East to join the battle. The Army as a whole was put on the alert. A state of war with Israel was declared.

Thousands of young people stoned the American Cultural Centre in Algiers, shouting "Palestine for the Arabs".

MOROCCO.—King Hassan gave orders for units of the armed forces to be sent to the Middle East.

YEMEN.—President Abdullah al-Sallal declared the republic to be at war with Israel and declared a state of emergency.

GUINEA.—Conakry radio said the diplomatic relations with Israel were being severed because Israel was an instrument of international imperialism.

TUNISIA.—Demonstrators rampaged through the United States and British embassies in Tunis and smashed windows of Jewish shops.

How the Arabs rallied to the support of Egypt.
The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 06, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56960.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67595462

Nasser denial of prestige motive

President Nasser denied in a recorded interview broadcast last night by Granada television that he had deliberately engineered the Middle East crisis for reasons of prestige.

Questioned by Mr. Anthony Nutting, the former Conservative Minister, he claimed that he had been planning to take a four-day holiday when "suddenly there were these statements of Mr. Eshkol to go and occupy Syria, occupy Damascus".

Other Middle East news, page 10

Viewers of the B.B.C.'s *Panorama* programme last night heard President Nasser say that Egypt had no intention to attack Israel.

He was speaking in a recorded interview with Mr. Christopher Mayhew, former Labour Minister for the Navy, filmed in Cairo on Friday. The President maintained that what he wanted was the regaining of Arab rights in Palestine.

America, he said, was siding with the Jews. Egypt had to thank the Soviet Union because of its support for the rights of Arabs. It was not their object, however, to have a confrontation between the Soviet Union and the United States. "We want peace in the world. We don't want war. But also we want our rights."

Nasser denial of prestige motive.
The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 06, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56960.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67857606

TITO CONDEMNS ISRAEL

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT—Vienna, June 5

As the first communist statesman to comment on the outbreak of hostilities between Israel and Egypt, President Tito today left no doubt that he regards Israel as an aggressor. In a statement which condemned what he said were Israel attempts to impose its will, he pledged full support to the Arab countries in their " just confrontation with Israel."

The aggression must be stopped and all governments and nations must join in the efforts to put an end to hostilities, he said.

It might have been thought that a man of President Tito's standing as a spokesman for coexistence would, if not actually offer his good services, then at least exercise restraint. But all that came from Belgrade today was a hasty declaration which may have made the right impression in Cairo but which could hardly be regarded as constructive in the present situation nor in keeping with the principles the Yugoslavs profess to be pursuing in international affairs.

The Government and people of Yugoslavia, President Tito said, are enraged by Israel's aggression which, for the second time in 11 years, has revealed what Israel really is, an instrument of imperialist policy of power and force, an aggressor against the Arab countries. By beginning military operations while efforts were being made in the United Nations and outside to safeguard peace, Israel had assumed a grave responsibility and must bear all the consequences, President Tito said.

He called upon the United Nations to put an end to aggression, and appealed to all nations to help in the efforts to end hostilities.

Other East European capitals, with the exception of Bucharest where both the Israel and Egypt versions of the outbreak of fighting are being factually reported, took a similar line, condemning what they represent as an aggression by Israel encouraged from the outside.

Spanish sympathy

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

MADRID, JUNE 5

While Spain is shocked by the opening of hostilities in the Middle East, General Franco is today carrying out a programme of visits to the Mediterranean coast.

General Franco, whose bridge-to-Islam policy included close relations with the Arab countries, was among the first heads of state to send a message of sympathy to President Nasser over a week ago, when the situation was becoming critical in the Middle East.

Tito Condemns Israel.
FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 06, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56960.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68250822

Britain's concern in Middle East fighting 'not to take sides'

MR. GEORGE BROWN, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Belper, Lab.), in a statement on the Middle East situation, said:—The House will have learnt with deep concern that early this morning hostilities broke out in the Middle East. The situation is still unclear. There has been heavy ground fighting on the border of Israel and the United Arab Republic.

There has been substantial air activity, including attacks on airfields in the United Arab Republic and elsewhere. There has also been air activity over Israel. There are reports of fighting on other frontiers of Israel.

Our Consul General in Jerusalem reported earlier this morning that the city was "engulfed in war". Although the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization arranged a cease fire from 12 noon in Jerusalem the latest information reaching me is that after some initial success sporadic firing has broken out again.

I cannot emphasize too strongly how much her Majesty's Government regret this tragic development. It was precisely in an attempt to avert the risk of such a development that the Government took the step I put before the House on May 31. As the House knows, we have repeatedly urged by all means open to us both on Israel and the Arab States the need to exercise restraint and seek a solution to their problems through peaceful negotiations.

Minister's talks

During this morning I have been in touch with the representatives of the United States, the Soviet Union, France, and Italy, and of course with our mission to the United Nations. This afternoon I shall be seeing representatives of the Arab States and we have also been in touch with the Embassy of Israel.

Our immediate aim must clearly be to bring about an early and general ceasefire. The Security Council has been convened and is about to begin its emergency meeting. I hope that it will proceed immediately to the adoption of a resolution calling for this ceasefire.

The Government's attitude—and the House will, I know, support me in saying this—is that the British concern is not to take sides but to ensure a peaceful solution to the problems of the area and that in this situation we have the same interest as that of others in the area as well as the rest of the world.

The House will wish to know that instructions are being given to all our forces in the area to avoid any involvement in the conflict.

Advised to leave

The House will also wish to know the position of British subjects in the area. On May 23 British subjects in the U.A.R. and Israel and on the west bank of the Jordan were advised to leave unless their presence was essential. This advice was extended shortly afterwards to cover the rest of Jordan. British subjects in neighbouring countries in the area were advised to be ready to leave at short notice.

My information is that following this advice most business visitors and tourists in Israel, Jordan, and the U.A.R. have left but that the majority of permanent British residents have probably remained. The Government are in touch with our representatives in all the countries concerned about emergency evacuation plans.

All merchant shipping due to pass through the Suez Canal is being advised to delay transit for 24 hours. Our advice will be kept under constant review.

I have received reports of mob attacks on our embassies in Benghazi, Tripoli and Tunis and on the Consulate in Basra. I am maintaining the closest touch with all our posts, and will be raising this subject with the Arab ambassadors when I see them later this afternoon. We shall make further reports to the House as the situation develops.

Four-power meeting

SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME (Kinross and West Perth, C.):—Can the Foreign Secretary say any more about the form of the resolution which will be put before the Security Council and about the Government's attitude? Does it require reinstatement of the United Nations force on both sides of the frontier of Israel and Egypt?

Is there a chance of a four-power conference being called to limit the scope of the war?

There are many factors of which the House is ignorant, particularly, of course, about the talks which the Prime Minister had with President Johnson, and on the declaration as to the keeping open of the Gulf of Aqaba, and what action the Governments have agreed to keep the gulf open.

I had hoped that the Prime Minister would make a statement today, but as he has not done so, will the Foreign Secretary arrange for a debate, if necessary tomorrow, so that we may examine the case very carefully?

Cease-fire resolution

MR. BROWN said he had some doubts whether a debate as early as tomorrow would at all assist, but the Government would consider the suggestion.

As to the form of the resolution (he continued), we are at the moment in consultation with the other members of the Security Council and with the other countries about this.

I would have thought myself that the right thing to do now is to go as quickly as we can for a straightforward resolution of the Security Council calling on both sides to observe immediately a ceasefire, and not to tangle it up with other questions.

This is being discussed at the moment in New York and those are the instructions that I have given to Lord Caradon.

The question of calling for reinstatement of the United Nations force is, I would have thought, much more a part of a longer-term solution to the problems in the area. What we are faced with is not finding a long-term solution now, however, but with the immediate problem of getting the fighting stopped. It is surely better to go straight for that.

On the question of a four-power conference, I have made it clear this morning to the representatives of the other members of the four powers how strongly I think this situation calls for the convening of such a meeting—it could be at United Nations level in New York—and that we should get together. That message has been conveyed to my opposite numbers in their capitals.

The Prime Minister will be making a statement on his talks tomorrow, but he talks to a large extent covered matters other than this. On the question of a declaration about the Gulf of Aqaba, important as that was last week, what has now happened has somewhat overtaken it.

What is required

MR. MAYHEW (Woolwich, East, Lab.), the Foreign Secretary's statement that the British Government have no intention of taking sides will be widely welcomed.

Will he also note, in relation to the question of the Gulf of Aqaba raised by Sir A. Douglas Home the grave danger in the new situation of the Government identifying themselves too closely with the Israeli point of view on that?

Can we assume, therefore, that the Government's policy now is for diplomatic means to limit and shorten the war without showing partiality to either side?

MR. BROWN.—What I have said today, I said firmly, and meant, last week. Taking sides on the merits of this issue is not required of us.

What is required is to get a situation in which the solution to the problems which undoubtedly exist can be obtained by negotiated methods, whereby an equitable arrangement can be arrived at which can honourably be advanced on both sides.

Last week we were talking about the Gulf of Aqaba, which at that stage looked both to me and to the House as being the likely flash-point and the most important issue to try and take care of if we were to avert a war.

We have to recognize that this morning's events have to some extent, though not wholly, overtaken that situation. We now have a war in which the starting point was elsewhere than the Gulf of Aqaba.

A ceasefire first concern

MR. THORPE (North Devon, L.):—The widest possible support will be given to any initiative to achieve a ceasefire, preferably through the United Nations, and if in default of that, outside it.

He asked what was the position of the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization, in view of the report put out by the Israeli Government that the office of that organization had been overrun by Jordanian troops; what civilian cities had been attacked; and what was the position of shipping in the Suez Canal now?

MR. BROWN.—It is on the importance of getting a ceasefire that I will concern myself more than on other things.

I have no confirmation that the office of Unsco has been overrun. I saw the report. Many reports are coming in, and in the nature of things one has to wait a little while before one is sure they are true. Unsco was operating in the Jerusalem area this morning without any question, and it may well be operating elsewhere. Frankly things are too confused, but I may be able to tell the House more about that tomorrow.

I have no reports at the moment of civilian cities being attacked, although there are a number of reports, some accurate, that airports which are in or near civilian cities have been attacked. But there appears to be at the moment no firm information of actual attacks on cities.

Shipping at the moment seems to be moving through the canal.

Arab might

MR. SHINWELL (Easington, Lab.):—In view of the failure of diplomatic activities, and the failure of the Security Council to bring the people who the last two or three weeks, is there any guarantee that the Security Council at its next meeting will come to a decision, and that that decision will not be affected by the veto?

In any event, will the decision be of a character which will prevent the Arab countries from continuing their act of aggression against the State of Israel?

If there is a failure of the Security Council to promote a ceasefire, are we to witness a situation where the might of the Arab states will overrun this small country which we have been pledged for many long years to protect against subversion.

When there are people who talk about not taking sides, when they have recently had conversations and discussions with General Nasser, is it not likely that what they mean is not taking sides which will affect the Arab states, and which might mean, on the other hand, the destruction of the Jews in Israel?

MR. BROWN.—I do not think that it is right to talk about the failure of diplomatic activity. For two weeks now we have, because of intensive diplomatic activity, held the situation and averted a war. I hoped that this could have gone on. What changed it I do not know. We will have to find out.

In the end, on the United Nations and the Security Council must rest the one real hope of getting a degree of law and order into the world, and I propose that we should go on and use that organization for this purpose. I am not willing at this stage to envisage a failure to get a ceasefire resolution through the council.

As to not taking sides, I would simply say—and I understand my right hon. friend's emotions and feelings, and I am by no means casting any kind of doubt on them, and I recognize why he feels them—but I am certain that anyone standing at this dispatch box would do more good not only for our national interests but certainly for the interests of peace in that area by avoiding being thought to be taking sides on the merits of the issue.

Poison gas condemned

MR. SANDYS (Streatham, C.).—While doing everything in their power to bring about a ceasefire, and while avoiding taking sides in this conflict, will the Government bear in mind that most of us feel strongly that any eventual settlement must recognize Israel's right to live as an independent nation?

Now that the International Red Cross have confirmed that poison gas has been used in the Yemen, and in view of the possibility of the extensive use of gas against Israel, will the Foreign Secretary urgently take up this matter at the United Nations?

MR. BROWN.—In last week's debate none of us, as far as I understood, said that Israel, like any other nation which is recognized by the United Nations and a full member of it, did not have the right to live. That is the minimum we can say in this matter. On the other hand there are many issues involved, many problems, and many arguable points.

We would do far better at this stage not to rower too much to what we were talking about last week, and to concentrate on reducing the passions and emotions so that we can get a ceasefire.

On the question of the use of gas in the Yemen, the whole House will deeply condemn the use of this agent by any power in any cause, and while I do not join Mr. Sandys in anticipating the use of it in this conflict—(Cries of "Why not?")—because I think it would be silly—nevertheless he may be quite sure that the Government, in the discussions at the United Nations and elsewhere, will see that full account is taken of what we have discovered.

Arms shipments

MR. ELLIS (Bristol, North-West, Lab.):—What is the policy about arms shipments to this area, o either side? Can the Foreign Secretary give some indication of the arms that are perhaps on their way there and over which we still have some control. Can he indicate how much and to whom it is in transit? Can he say what his policy in the future is likely to be?

MR. BROWN.—It has never been the policy to discuss in the open the shipments of arms that the country makes to anybody. I do not think that it would be of much value if I were to do so at this point.

We have contracts already entered into for the shipment of arms to various parts of this area, as have other governments. I am urgently in touch with them as to what action should be taken in view of this action.

MR. ABSE (Pontypool, Lab.).—The citizens of the State of Israel are largely composed of the remnants of the Jews who were exterminated as a result of the ineffectiveness of international action. If Israel is not going to depend desperately upon itself it must have some greater assurance that there will be effective international action, particularly in the Strait of Aqaba.

MR. BROWN.—I think that we would serve the cause of peace better by not pronouncing on the merits of the case. Let us get a ceasefire, and then the merits of what needs to be done can be argued out.

Whether we are Jews or non-Jews, Zionist or non-Zionist, and if in the past we have taken a pro-Arab or non-pro-Arab attitude, if we get ourselves into the situation today of arguing the merits, we will thereby reduce our capacity to bring about a ceasefire.

MR. IAN GILMOUR (Norfolk, Central, C.).—Is it not the case that the present evidence suggests that the fight was begun by the Israelis?

MR. BROWN.—I do not know how the hon. gentleman is able to form that judgment. The information available to me would most certainly not put me in a position to answer that question. My contacts with my colleagues in other capitals this morning—which have been very extensive—make it quite clear that they are in the same position as I am. The situation is anything but clear.

Pressure for embargo

MR. HEFFER (Liverpool, Walton, Lab.).—Can the Foreign Secretary give an assurance that if a four-power meeting is held he will press for a complete embargo on arms to all sides in this conflict? Would he not agree that we all, all large powers, hold a great responsibility precisely because we have been selling arms over the last few years to various sides?

MR. BROWN.—I think we have a much better record when it comes to not disturbing the balance by the sale of arms than some other countries. I gave some evidence last week for that point of view.

As far as what one should say at the four-power meeting, at whatever level we can get it, I can only say I take note of what he says. I have a good deal of sympathy—but I think we had better see if we can get it organized first.

It would be very ill-advised (he added) to speculate either way about how it began. There are many possibilities; many possibilities of misjudgment, all kinds of things. I canvassed this last Wednesday—the sort of thing where it could happen without anybody intending it to happen. It would not help at all to speculate on the origins of it. History will settle that for us, I have no doubt.

SIR A. DOUGLAS-HOME.—The Foreign Secretary perfectly sensibly and rightly talks in terms of a ceasefire, but that will not hold for long unless there is some policing force to maintain it. Will he at the same time, if he cannot include that in a resolution, at least use all his influence in that respect?

MR. BROWN.—Yes, indeed. One of our difficulties over the last week or so was frankly the difficulty of getting the necessary number of votes for carrying any resolution of that detailed kind through the Security Council. This is one of the things that has held it up.

If we were to try to include something of that sort in a ceasefire resolution we should run into the same situation, whereas the immediate need is for a call to all parties to cease fire.

I think therefore we would be wiser to go for that, as being likely to be obtainable rather more quickly, and then use whatever time that buys us to see what arrangements we can then make by negotiations, and in what form some United Nations presence can be restored to the area, from where I regret so much it was ever removed.

The Arabs' case

MR. TUCK (Watford, Lab.).—Since, as the Prime Minister has stated, this is a case of one nation being determined to annihilate another nation, that other being a member of the United Nations, how can the Foreign Secretary talk of the impossibility of taking sides?

MR. BROWN.—Because I do not believe the issue is as black and white or as simple as that. (A cry of: "The Prime Minister said it was".) I have been careful today, as I was last week—and as was the Prime Minister—to avoid taking positions that would inflame emotions.

I am bound to say there is a case which the Arabs can deploy; it is a case which has not only plausibility but legality and force.

If one is going to emphasize one side, as he has done, then one is bound to put the other as well. I do not think doing this helps very much in a situation in which we want to get emotions down in order that we can get a ceasefire.

MR. CAMPBELL (Moray and Nairn, C.).—Will the Government immediately propose the urgent strengthening of the truce supervision organization? It contains the United Nations observers which are now on the ground—and this is a practical suggestion—and they will have a vital role in obtaining and maintaining the ceasefire.

MR. BROWN.—I do not disagree with that at all, although I am not willing at this moment to pronounce on what form a restored United Nations presence should take.

There might be a chance of getting the force back on both sides of the border; it might be that through a strengthened Unsco, or through a combination of both, we could restore it. It might be that the Secretary-General should have his own representative on it. This is not the moment to pronounce on what form, nor to assume that any one is mutually exclusive.

Mr Jay will not ground DC 4s

MR. JAY, President of the Board of Trade (Battersea, North, Lab.), in a statement on the air crashes at Perpignan and Stockport, said it would, under international agreement, be a matter for the French authorities to decide what course to pursue in relation to the accident at Perpignan.

I have decided (he said) that a public inquiry shall be held into the causes and circumstances of the accident at Stockport. Further, while the application of United Kingdom standards of safety by operators of United Kingdom registered aircraft is being kept constantly under examination, I have today given instructions for a special review of the performance of all such operators. (Cheers.)

Public confidence

MR. CARR (Mitcham, C.) said the Opposition would welcome the special as well as the general inquiry, but it would be wrong to pre-judge or attach any blame to particular airlines, aircraft, or people.

Would there be full publicity for any lesions which might be drawn from the findings of these inquiries, and would the President give an unequivocal assurance that such lessons would be put into practice, and would be known to have been put into practice?

While stressing that I have no suspicions (he continued), let alone information, about the cause or blame for these accidents, and that this request has no direct connexion with them, will he bear in mind the special need to increase air safety and to establish public confidence in it at a time when we are about to enter a new era of air transport, with very large aircraft carrying more than 500 people and supersonic transport as well?

Will the Government take the initiative in calling for a new international review of air safety, with particular reference to lanes of approach and take-off from airports?

MR. JAY said the inquiry into the Stockport accident would be held in public and the report would be made public. The inquiry into the accident at Perpignan was the responsibility of the French authorities, but he hoped that maximum public information would be possible.

He agreed with Mr. Carr's remarks about general regulations to maintain safety, and this was one of his reasons for instituting a special review.

MR. ORBACH (Stockport, South, Lab.).—Does the statement mean that Argonauts which are 18 or 20 years old are being grounded until they have been inspected and passed by his department as airworthy?

Is it not time to have legislation which will enforce some control over travel agencies, particularly those engaged in cheap holiday traffic? (Cheers.)

MR. JAY.—It would be much too soon, with the information we now have available, to make any judgments about the types of aircraft involved in these incidents. We must await the results of the two investigations before coming to judgments of that kind.

MR. ALFRED MORRIS (Manchester, Wythenshawe, Lab.).—Will the President of the Board of Trade press private operators to ensure that similar aircraft to those involved in these appalling tragedies will be withdrawn from service pending the outcome of these investigations?

MR. JAY.—I am not convinced that pending the investigations it is necessary to take that step. The anxieties will not be overlooked.

MR. LUBBOCK (Orpington, L.)—Is there not a general question about the use of aircraft which are 20 or 25 years old?

The DC 4 and its Merlin-engined version, the Argonaut, were extremely successful in their day, but has not the time come to review whether there should not be more stringent regulations, not just for this particular type, but of the use by independent operators of aircraft of a certain age?

MR. JAY.—First there has to be an air operator's certificate given to the airline and, in addition to that, the Board of Trade Aviation Registration Department has to give a licence to the individual aircraft. That is frequently done in periods of less than a year.

MR. MENDELSON (Penistone, Lab.).—While one should not prejudge the issue under investigation, there is grave and widespread concern about these accidents. Will the President give an assurance that the Government will be ruthless in publishing the facts and figures and making comparisons between different airline owners, and may I press him to ground aircraft of this category pending the inquiry?

MR. JAY.—The results of the inquiry into the Stockport accident will be published but the other inquiry is in the hands of the French authorities. It is just because I have my hon. friend's anxieties in mind that I am in addition proposing to carry out a review of the performance of all these operators. I am not at the moment convinced that we need go beyond that.

MR. STRATTON MILLS (Belfast, North, U.U.).—Having regard to the bad safety record of Perpignan, has the President power to stop British aircraft using this airport pending the report of the inquiry? Has he information about whether this airport has proper devices for keeping in touch with aircraft?

MR. JAY.—In the last resort I would have power to do that with British aircraft—and in the last resort I would do so—but I think it right to await the results of the inquiry.

MR. RANKIN (Glasgow, Govan Lab.).—We are now entering the season when aircraft which have been out of commission for a long while are being rapidly brought into service to carry holiday crowds. Extra precautions are demanded from his inspectors. Will he see that this is done?

Does he not think the time has arrived when we should put an age bar on the future service of existing aircraft?

MR. JAY.—Under present arrangements the individual aircraft *is inspected from* time to time by public inspectors as well as by the airline. I am sure that in carrying out these inspections the inspectors will take into account these considerations.

Terrible record

MR. ROBERT HOWARTH (Bolton, East, Lab.).—Will the President of the Board of Trade not reconsider his answer on Perpignan. It has a terrible record of aircraft flying into surrounding mountains and one wonders if it is good enough to wait until the French have held an inquiry?

Is it not possible to look at this record with a view to preventing British operators from using it?

MR. JAY.—I am not satisfied at the moment that we should take action before receiving the report of the inquiry.

MR. REES-DAVIES (Isle of Thanet, C.).—Is it not right that at Perpignan they have recently introduced the latest safety measures? Is it not the case that there is not as yet any evidence that age, as such, has been a cause of trouble—(cries of dissent)—and that this will be the first inquiry into that aspect?

MR. JAY.—In general I believe expert opinion is to the effect that general judgments on age alone are not so relevant as examination of the individual types and individual aircraft.

I am not sure what the hon. member means about the "latest" safety equipment at Perpignan, but there certainly are safety devices in force.

MR. MIKARDO (Poplar, Lab.).—The inquiry should take into account whether the general standards of the Air Registration Board, which were laid down many years ago, are good enough in present and greatly changed circumstances, and what are the standards and quality of routine maintenance of the various operators.

MR. JAY.—Yes, it will certainly include those items.

Britain's concern in Middle East fighting 'not to take sides'.
The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 06, 1967; pg. 7; Issue 56960.

Category: Politics and Parliament

Gale Document Number:CS117927110

Mr Brown holds delicate course

By WILLIAM NORRIS, Westminster, Monday

A tense and crowded House of Commons received official confirmation of the fighting in the Middle East today from Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary. But neither by Mr. Brown's statement nor by the questioning which followed were members made much the wiser.

" The situation is still unclear ", Mr. Brown began, and it became no clearer. The only concrete item of news the Foreign Secretary could offer was that mob attacks had been made on the British embassies in Benkhazi, Tripoli and Tunis, and on the consulate in Basra. The subject was being raised with the Arab ambassadors.

Stern and statesmanlike, Mr. Brown avoided all temptations to align the Government with either side in the conflict. Their every effort, he told the House, would be aimed at getting an early cease-fire, and the first bid for this must be made through the Security Council. Consultation with other member countries had already begun.

Plans for the emergency evacuation of British residents in the area, Mr. Brown added, were being discussed with our representatives on the spot. In addition, all merchant shipping due to pass through the Suez Canal was being advised to delay transit for 24 hours.

The official Opposition reaction to Mr. Brown's statement was temperate and constructive. Sir Alec Douglas-Home suggested a four-power conference; Mr. Brown replied that this was already in hand. He was less forthcoming, however, to Sir Alec's request for a Commons debate tomorrow. It was too soon, thought Mr. Brown; it could not help the situation. The point was not pressed.

Left-wing demand

Support for action through the United Nations was strong in the House, but it was not unanimous. Mr. Shinwell demanded to know what would happen if the Security Council failed to agree. Would Israel simply be crushed? Mr. Brown understood his feelings, but he refused to cross that bridge before he reached it. Nor could he agree with Mr. Sandys that because Egypt had used poison gas in the Yemen she was likely to do so in the new war. " Why not? ", insisted an angry voice. " Because it would be silly to do so ", Mr. Brown replied.

The Foreign Secretary steered a delicate course. Pro-Israel questioners were firmly reminded that there were sound arguments on the other side. Others like Mr. Gilmour, already convinced that the Jews had started the fighting, were tartly told that no one knew who had started it. " If any of us get into the situation of arguing the merits ", Mr. Brown went on, " we will only reduce our capacity to bring about a cease-fire."

In the circumstances, it was an assured performance. Mr. Brown only began to falter when he faced demands from his own left wing for an immediate embargo on British arms shipments to the Middle East. These things, he temporized, were never mentioned in the House. Certainly Britain had arms contracts, but so did other countries. And he was discussing with them what ought to be done. Anyway, Mr. Brown added, we had a good record for not disturbing the balance of power. It was nice to know.

Parliamentary report, page 7.

Mr Brown holds delicate course.
By WILLIAM NORRIS

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 06, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56960.

Category: Politics and Parliament

Gale Document Number:CS168258758

TIMES PAST
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THE AIMS OF WAR

The first day of a war is a bad time to start writing its history. Yesterday's reports were full of confusion and contradiction; we cannot even be sure who made the first move, though the intransigence of the Arabs, the war plans of Israel, the arms sales of the great powers and the ineffectiveness of the United Nations all bear a share of responsibility for the situation. Certainly no one can regard PRESIDENT NASSER as the innocent victim of aggression; if he did not start the war he did everything in his power to provoke it. Nor has Israel avoided provocation; no doubt Israel always had a plan for a preemptive strike, and this was the plan yesterday's events set into effect.

There is, however, one important distinction between the aims of Israel and the aims of the Arabs. Israel has a limited objective, to destroy for the time being the aggressive capacity of at least one of her enemies. The first Israel attack was made against the Egyptian Air Force, and the destruction of Egyptian air power would for Israel be a great gain in itself. Israel also presumably hopes that a victorious campaign will again open the Gulf of Aqaba to Israel shipping. There is, however, no suggestion that Israel wishes to obliterate the peoples of her Arab neighbours. Whatever the Arab grievances which spring from the foundation of the state of Israel, the Arab countries do not have to fear that Israel will liquidate them. Israel does have to fear that the Arab states, if they had the power, would destroy her as a nation.

It is this point which makes the present situation so particularly difficult. There are no circumstances in which a total Arab victory could be allowed without the western powers being forced to intervene. Such an intervention would be made not in order to assist Israel aggression, nor at a time when Israel's armies were operating outside her own frontiers, but it would be necessary in order to prevent the destruction of the state of Israel and the consequent massacre of her people.

It is as well that this should be understood clearly. Neither the United States, nor Britain even without the United States, could allow the destruction of the state of Israel, even if it proved to be the case that this war has been started by Israel aggression in the face of Arab provocation. It needs no saying that such action to defend Israel would go against Britain's commercial and political interests, but it would have to be undertaken because no decent man could accept the second massacre of the Jewish nation in one lifetime.

This is therefore a war which the Arab powers cannot be allowed finally to win, without involving major powers from outside the Middle East. Is it then a war which Israel can be allowed to win? Obviously Israel like Egypt can win a battle. If in the first few days Israel knocks out a substantial part of Egypt's war capacity that will occur before any major power can intervene.

Yet equally there would come a point at which the advance of Israel would have to stop, or be stopped. Right from the beginning the influence of the United States, the Soviet Union and Britain is likely to be directed to making the parties cease fire. Israel is very vulnerable to American pressure, both economic and diplomatic. It would do Israel no good to gain a victory in the war which her own friends made her disgorge as part of the price of peace. The best that Israel can conceivably hope for is a gain of a limited kind, and even that will depend on negotiation as much as on fighting. Just as the United States has an ultimate commitment to Israel, the Soviet Union may feel that she cannot afford to give up the interests of the Arab powers.

The only right policy for all the powers is therefore to seek a return to peace as rapidly as possible. It is not going to be easy to achieve. While it is impossible for either side to be allowed an outright victory, there will plainly be a difference between the situation created by a successful campaign for one side or the other. It is always easier to prevent a war starting than actually to stop it; the world has failed to prevent this war starting. Peacemaking is also more difficult because of the weakness of the United Nations in dealing with the situation before war broke out.

Whatever happens now, Britain and the United States will lose from this war because it is bound to alienate the Arab countries from us and push them further towards the Soviet Union. Both our countries are bound to be regarded as sharing Israel's responsibility for a war we have in fact done all we could to prevent. And in all the Arab countries the question of whether Israel is the aggressor will be settled before it is even asked. This puts in political risk the whole Middle East, the vast oil investments, and, by a tragic paradox, the future environment of Israel.

There is finally the question of world war. There is absolutely no reason why this war should be allowed to become the third world war (though there would be a certain apocalyptical appropriateness if almost the first shots which announced the end of the world were in fact to have been fired on Megiddo—the biblical Armageddon). What is necessary is that the great powers should act in concert, that the United States, the Soviet Union, and ourselves should work together for peace. If that is done there is every reason to hope that the war can first be limited and then extinguished.

The Aims Of War.
The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 06, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56960.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS184773830

This time Israel bears the brunt in isolation

By HUGH THOMAS

Whoever fired first, the war aims of Israel must in fact be very much what they were in the nervous year between the Czech-Egyptian arms deal of September, 1955 and the nationalization of the Suez Canal Company in July, 1956: the freeing of the Gulf of Aqaba from the Egyptian blockade, the destruction of the Egyptian potential for attacks from the Gaza Strip and, no doubt less clearly defined, some solid injury to Egyptian military prestige.

These aims were explicitly formulated long before the Suez crisis. General Dayan, in his candid *Diary of the Sinai Campaign*, explained quite clearly that these ideas for a limited preventive war were in the mind of the Israeli Government as soon as Ben-Gurion came back to power as Prime Minister in November, 1955.

Here, however, the similarities between the present situation and that just before the Suez crisis end. The two fundamental differences are: that the Israeli Government in the 1950s were able to profit from the French war against revolutionary Algeria so that, still before the Suez crisis, they were assured of full backing from one major European power; secondly, after the nationalization of the Suez Canal, Britain was also drawn into what Dayan has described (*Le Monde*, April 30, 1966) as a "political alliance". The tortuous and almost comic manner in which these arrangements were concluded has by now been more than adequately chronicled. It would seem appropriate, however, to recall that as a result Israel, in 1956, was able to act almost with impunity: her cities were protected by French fighters and the Egyptian Air Force, which was considered sufficiently strong to force upon Britain and France what now seems a surprising caution in their own movements, was destroyed or dispersed by the Royal Air Force.

DAYAN'S EXPLANATION

The astounding fact about these *liaisons dangéreuses* is that it was really Dayan who made crystal clear the extent to which his country depended on Anglo-French help; it was he who showed how the Egyptian defence held up quite well until the night of October 31-November 1, when Nasser wisely ordered a general withdrawal, after he had heard of the Allied bombing; and it was Dayan who, therefore, punctured the myth of the brilliant lightning war. This was a service to history, of course, but also less obviously, but not less clearly, to Israel today. For nations cannot survive on myths and it is as well for Israeli commanders to appreciate the extent of their isolation today. This time, Israel cannot count on an Egyptian order to withdraw to positions west of the Suez Canal after 48 hours.

The second fundamental difference between the strategic situation in 1956 and today is that the weapons systems of the two countries have been radically altered—details and the nature, for instance, of possible nuclear or missile action naturally even more so. But the main facts are obvious: Israel has probably as many tanks as Egypt, probably more bombers and a fighter force which Egypt cannot ignore. Of course if Israel were to be matched against all Arab states simultaneously all fighting with equal persistence these superiorities would vanish. But it is barely conceivable that in present circumstances Syria and Lebanon will launch major offensives.

Even calls to a Jehad have been refused before now—indeed the Arab revolt against the Turkish Empire was against a sultan who had proclaimed a Jehad in his own defence. The more important qualification seems to be, however, that the Israeli Air Force depends upon France for spare parts: a fact which must make General de Gaulle's most recent statement of neutrality a problematical one for Israel.

At the same time, it is obvious that Egyptian technical skill in the manipulation of their Russian weapons has improved since 1956. In 1956, Nasser possessed Ilyushin bombers, for instance, but these never took to the sky except to escape to Luxor. The Russian technicians who were beginning to instruct their Egyptian allies in the use of these and other weapons were withdrawn from the battle zone. Khrushchev, in fact, acted very much as Stalin had done when he told the Russian military advisers during the Spanish Civil War to "keep out of range of artillery fire".

AVOIDING CONTACT

Though it is reasonable to suppose that the Russians will once again do their utmost to avoid physical contact with the enemy, it would be foolish to suppose that their Egyptian pupils are in 1967 anything like so reluctant as they were to handle the most sophisticated equipment (as indeed the war in the Yemen has already shown to some extent).

Assuming that the critical battles of the present conflict are fought in or over Sinai, there are, of course, a number of constant factors. Except for air bases and troop encampments, the geography of Sinai impels the same preoccupations as it did when Colonel T. E. Lawrence freed Aqaba from the Turks almost 50 years ago (in July, 1917).

Sinai is a desert peninsular about 220 miles long, reaching from the Mediterranean to its southernmost point near Sharm-el-Sheikh in the Red Sea and about 100 miles wide at what might be considered its widest point, between Eilat and the north end of the Gulf of Suez. In this 23,000 square mile-area, there is only one town of importance, El Arish, near the Mediterranean coast, about 25 miles in from the Israeli border.

About one third of the 38,000 population of Sinai live in El Arish. There is a tiny Egyptian harbour, Dahab, halfway up the Egyptian side of the Gulf of Aqaba of no commercial importance. Much of the north and west periphery of Sinai is swamp, the rest is a high, dry, desert plateau, becoming mountainous in the south and rising to Mount Sinai, 7,500ft., where the Law was delivered to Moses, and for 1,300 years the site of the orthodox monastery of St. Catherine.

The keys to this peninsula are the three east-west roads across it: one links Gaza, El Arish to meet the Suez Canal at Kantara: the second runs from the Israeli border in the northern Negev through Abu Ageila to the Suez Canal and Ismalia: the third runs from the Israeli border through Thamad and Nakhl to the Pass of Mitla (where the Israelis dropped their paratroops in 1956) and so to the town of Suez itself.

These east-west cross-roads are connected with each other by very few tracks, so that the places where they do meet are of great tactical importance. But Abu Ageila, which really links all three roads and which was the scene of the toughest Egyptian resistance in 1956, is certain to see decisive fighting again.

The quality of the east-west roads is good, so much so that in 1956 an Israeli armoured brigade raced right across the peninsula in a day. The other roads in Sinai are bad. Thus, there is a path running north-south down the Negev frontier on the Egyptian side, through the old battlegrounds of Kusiema and Kuntilla and then south to the Strait of Tiran, mostly within 20 miles of the sea in the Gulf of Aqaba. Much of this path is deep sand and it is not straight.

In 1956 the Israeli 9th Armoured Brigade took three days even with little opposition to get Sharm-el-Sheikh at the tip of the peninsula. It would be reasonable to suppose that this way would today be improved but also it would be better defended. It would seem that if the Israelis do indeed mean to break the Egyptian blockade at the Strait of Tiran, they would be likely to make an airborne attack.

In 1956, Sharm-el-Sheikh was a separate Egyptian command. The main Egyptian defence system rested on the triangle El Arish-Abu Ageila-Rafah, the latter controlling the entrance to the Gaza Strip. For logistic reasons, this triangle must be the centre of Egyptian concentration again; and once more Gaza and the Gaza Strip would be unlikely to hold out if Rafah or El Arish fell.

It is obvious that in addition to fighting in Sinai, there will be a bitter struggle on the ground on other Israeli-Arab frontiers, particularly, of course, along the Jordan bulge. But this can hardly alter the fundamental fact that since the Israelis' main enemy must be Egypt, the war will be won or lost in the Sinai peninsula.

AMBIGUOUS CONDUCT

One conclusion on this new and dangerous war in the Middle East is inescapable. The root cause of the conflict is the continuously makeshift and ambiguous behaviour by all the great powers, first towards frontiers and then towards armaments, during the entire 50 years since the Arab Revolt and the Balfour Declaration.

Whatever happens in the present conflict, the great powers have a clear duty to do their utmost to ensure that the frontiers eventually achieved will be a good deal more sensible and viable than they are at present.

The mention of frontier revision is always held to disturb Israel (Sir Anthony Eden's Guildhall speech of November, 1955), but there is probably more room for the sort of careful reallocation of frontiers than occurred in Europe at the Paris Peace Conference.

Is it not conceivable that Egypt might be prepared to give up Gaza in return for Israeli concessions in the Negev? The discussion of such ideas at least would be a great deal more positive than the kind of on/off arms trafficking which the great powers have hitherto seemed to regard as their best contribution to peace in the area.

This time Israel bears the brunt in isolation.
By HUGH THOMAS

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 06, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56960.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS185953478

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

TUESDAY JUNE 6 1967

OIL OUTLOOK IF CANAL CLOSES—P.25

World markets hoist crisis signals as war begins

By GEORGE PULAY, City Editor

Crisis signals were hoisted in the world's financial markets yesterday on news of the war in the Middle East. The pound came under pressure from the start and needed substantial official support. It still finished the day 3-16 cent lower at $2.79⅛. Demand for gold reached near record levels, and the price rose accordingly.

Commodity prices advanced sharply over a wide front. Reuter's commodity index leapt 11.6 to 460.3 (1931=100), the largest rise since devaluation in September 1949. Ship insurance rates went up dramatically and ship charter dealings stopped on the Baltic Exchange.

Gilt-edged price slid further and the Government broker, a steady supporter of three key stocks in recent weeks, let the market find its own level. Industrial shares eased off with *The Times* index shedding 2.16 points to 95.30. In New York, Wall Street staged a full-scale retreat, with the Dow Jones industrial average plunging 15.54 to 847.77—the sharpest fall since October 3, 1966.

Prices on the main European stock markets were all hard hit by the conflict. Losses ranged from 3 per cent to 5 per cent, with oils particularly weak. Dollar stocks eased well ahead of the New York opening.

For sterling it was a bad day in all centres. Actual selling was limited, and after the initial fall not much business was seen. The Bank of England intervened mostly in the forward market, supporting sterling for the three months and one-year positions. The cost is cautiously estimated at around $100m. The New York Federal Reserve may also have been helping. (Comment, p.25.)

In the bullion market, the flare-up inevitably sparked off a big demand for gold. At the morning "fixing" the price was raised 2d. to 252s. 1½d. an ounce on a dollar equivalent of $35.19⅛. The market continued active throughout the day.

Among commodities copper rose by £23 10s., tin by £36 5s., lead £2 7s. 6d. and zinc by £3 7s. 6d. a long ton. Coffee was 6s. 3d. higher per cwt., cocoa 2s. up, wool 1.2d. a lb. higher and sugar, with a £6 rise to £32 a ton, reached its highest level since November, 1964. New York, Chicago and Winnipeg commodities all followed the general trend, with many reaching their daily limit.

London ship insurers took sharp action. Rates on voyages to Israel, Egypt and Jordan, together with all sailings via the Suez Canal, are being increased to 2 per cent. Rates for the Lebanon and Syria are going up to 1 per cent and for Saudi Arabian Red Sea ports to 10s. per cent. These increases, announced by the Institute of London Underwriters last night, take effect from this morning. They represent a drastic change from the rate of 2s. 6d. per cent which was ruling previously in many cases.

The British Chamber of Shipping has passed to shipowners Mr. Brown's advice to delay for 24 hours all shipping going through the Suez Canal. It is up to the owners to decide for themselves, but they are expected to do as advised.

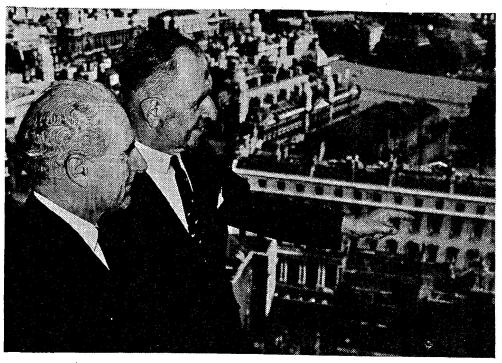
The chartering of all types of shipping on the Baltic Exchange came to a virtual halt. Shipowners withdrew from the market to await the inevitable higher level of rates the closure of the Suez Canal would bring. It later become clear, however, that not all types of charter would be affected, and while tramp shipping on a time basis was expected to cost more, it was not thought that the cost of shipping oil from the Persian Gulf would be altered very much since many of the larger tankers travel via the Cape anyway.

Stock markets behaved rather better than might have been expected. Prices of gilt-edged securities and equity shares alike were, of course, marked down sharply at the start of dealings, and most of them continued to lose ground throughout the session. The 2.16 fall in *The Times* index was the largest for any single day since July, 1966.

Selling was not really heavy, certainly not as heavy as might have been expected in the circumstances. To some extent this was attributable to the fact that jobbers lowered their quotations and substantially widened the margin between their buying and selling prices immediately they began to deal. But a more important reason was probably the dullness of markets over the past month or so. During that period most weak, nervous, or temporary holders of both fixed-interest securities and equities had sold. Consequently the market as a whole was in a good technical position to stand up to the news of the war. Nevertheless, at the end of the day there were appreciable losses. Among gilt-edged securities they ranged up to 17s. 6d., while in the industrial markets losses of 1s. 6d. were common.

Naturally oil shares with interests in the Middle East suffered particularly severely. British Petroleum, for example, fell 3s. to 62s. and Burmah Oil 3s. 6d. to 50s. 9d.

Leading article, page 25.



New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. John Marshall (left), and Sir Thomas MacDonald, the New Zealand High Commissioner, view London from New Zealand House. Mr. Marshall is here for talks with the British Government on the special arrangements which will have to be negotiated for New Zealand if Britain joins the E.E.C. With Mr. Herbert Bowden, the Commonwealth Secretary, and other British Ministers, Mr. Marshall will discuss the various options, including a form of association for New Zealand with the E.E.C., a "Morocco-style" protocol, levy-free entry for New Zealand wool, lamb and dairy produce, or a long-term trade agreement. Mr. Marshall, who is also Minister for Overseas Trade in the Holyoake Cabinet, is seeking the continuation of the same volume of trade in her main products on a permanent and economic basis. It is firmly understood in Whitehall—as, indeed, in Brussels and other capitals—that New Zealand represents a special situation. Yet it is plainly baffling to envisage how a clash of E.E.C. and New Zealand interests can be avoided.

GEC men fear for jobs, urge Government probe

From CLIFFORD WEBB, Midlands Industrial Correspondent

The whole of the joint shop stewards committee at G.E.C.'s heavy engineering works at Witton will be travelling south to the House of Commons today to press for a Government inquiry into the future of the plant, which employs over 8,000.

Members claim that although consistent rumours of further, and this time extensive, redundancy have reduced confidence to its lowest ebb, management has steadfastly refused to commit itself on the future role of Witton when the group's present reorganization is completed. Arrangements have been made for the shop stewards to meet Midland M.P.s at Westminster late this afternoon.

One of the shop stewards making the trip is Alan Merrell, who told me: "Several of the sections at Witton have either closed down, been taken over by other companies, or are in the process of being taken over. There has already been some redundancy, and about 300 more expect to lose their jobs in September when another section is moved to a G.E.C. subsidiary at Colchester. In the past few years the company has closed down several plants in the Midlands—at Four Ashes, near Wolverhampton, Dudley Port and Walsall.

"Eighteen months ago they sold the heavy generating side of the business to C. A. Parsons of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and one large section of about 1,000 men here is now working entirely for Parsons. Against this sort of background, the present changes and all the rumours floating around have led to repeated attempts by the unions to get a statement on the future of Witton.

"We even talked to Jack Scamp, the G.E.C. director who is supposed to be the Government's industrial trouble-shooter", Mr. Merrell went on. "But it was all a waste of time. They will not commit themselves, and after months of this sort of thing the men are in no mood for further prevarication."

NEWS SUMMARY

ITT-ABC ruling

The final decision on the ITT-ABC merger is now only days off. Indications are that the United States Federal Communications Commission will reject the $2,400m. link-up.

P.21

Lufthansa profit

West German sources are predicting a net profit for 1966 of £4,600,000 for the national airline Lufthansa. The management has confirmed that turnover for the year exceeded £90m. The figures will be made public on Thursday.

P. 21

Aluminium talks

Following the announcement of Rio Tinto Zinc's imaginative proposals for an aluminium smelter based on Anglesey, widespread aluminium and industrial interests are being drawn into discussions going on in Whitehall on plans for major aluminium smelting developments for Britain.

P. 20

Reserve policies

Plans to increase international liquidity are needed urgently, says the U.S. Treasury Secretary. Such plans are necessary to strengthen world confidence in gold and the dollar and sterling reserve currencies.

This page

Builders' requests

A call was made to relax the licensing controls on the building industry at the annual conference of the Building Trades Federation yesterday. An appeal was also made to the Ministry of Housing to make 100 per cent mortgages available to house purchasers.

P.20

Profits slump

Hit by the depression in the textile industry, Yorkshire Dyeware and Chemical's profits in the year to March 31 slumped by 40 per cent to £554,000. The company was worst hit in the second half of the year.

P. 23

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Maximum output has drawbacks—Governor

By FRANCES CAIRNCROSS

A modest amount of slack in the economy can be justified on better grounds than the needs of the balance of payments, according to the Governor of the Bank of England, Sir Leslie O'Brien. But to avoid overstraining the resources of the economy, he pointed out, is not to solve its problems.

In a speech at the dinner of the British Export Houses Association last night, Sir Leslie questioned whether it was necessary in the long run to sacrifice economic growth to the need to achieve a surplus in the balance of payments. Achieving a theoretical maximum of output may in the long run be self-defeating, he said. In sustaining a higher level of capacity utilization, bottlenecks appear: investment is postponed, the edge is taken from competition, mobility of resources is obstructed, and eventually labour hoarding reduces the level of output below what it could be. Talk of our declining share in world trade ignored the marked improvement in the proportion of our import costs covered by exports, and the unusually high proportion of our output allotted to exports.

Lord Aldington, president of the association, said: "If, as I understand, is so, the Government wants to encourage small and medium manufacturers to use export merchants and export houses to help them in their export trade, it seems an odd way to go about it to put a selective employment tax on the export house, which the manufacturer himself does not have to pay."

Reserve currencies need standby plans

The urgent need to press the basic draft of plans for increasing international liquidity through the International Monetary Fund meeting scheduled later this month has again been stressed by U.S. Secretary of The Treasury Henry Fowler. In an interview in June's issue of *The Banker* Mr. Fowler says that completing such plans, and getting them accepted, ratified and in force, is vital in order to convince the world that "the traditional reserve assets (gold and reserve currencies—dollars and sterling) can and will be supplemented by a new reserve asset, when needed, to meet future requirements".

Without a firm plan ready for approval at the I.M.F.'s annual meeting in September, Mr. Fowler adds, many countries will adopt increasingly stringent reserve policies, leading to "cumulative restrictive actions on international capital" which will seriously hinder the growth of world trade.

Study will examine benefits of research

A four-year study is to be made by the Manchester Business School into the national benefits of research and development. Inevitably this will question, and perhaps confirm, the universal assumption that more research is always better than less.

The investigation has been commissioned by the Ministry of Technology and the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. It will be carried out in support of the Programmes Analysis Unit, set up last February by the Ministry and the U.K.A.E.A. to develop and apply more systematic ways of working out potential benefits of research and development programmes.

Up to £95,000 has been set aside for the programme. An investigation will be made of a sample of British firms to find out the methods they use in controlling and evaluating research and development expenditure. The study will try to find methods of working out the benefits that result from research and development activity. The sort of factors involved would include, for instance, the rate at which an innovation might spread through industry or the extent to which it would relieve bottlenecks and increase productivity.

Franco halts exports from Esso refinery

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—Castellon, June 5

In the middle of the inauguration ceremony for Esso's new refinery here today, General Franco in a dramatic new development announced that all the exports from the refinery were to be halted until further notice owing to the crisis in the Middle East.

Originally, Spain had insisted that the £18m. refinery export all its output. This was also the case with the Gulf-Rio Tinto plant in Huelva. They would be asked to supply to the home market only those products in short supply—until now only naphthas and liquid petroleum gas.

But under the new policy the output from the refineries will be held for domestic consumers because of the possibility of a shortage of crude brought about by the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Esso refinery, of 70,000 barrels daily capacity, is the backbone of Standard Oil of New Jersey's investment programme in Spain, which requires a capital outlay of more than £50m. Spain's sixth refinery and the fourth new one in three years, it is a 50-50 venture with the nation's biggest private bank, Banco Español de Credito (Banesto). Esso controls their other projects with 75 per cent shareholding.

The plant will process crude from Libya and Saudi Arabia. It was to have exported all its output to Scandinavia and North Africa.

Chartered Bank to pay costs

Settlement of a libel action by Pakistan National Oils, who import oil into Pakistan, against the Chartered Bank, who have branches in Pakistan and elsewhere in Asia, was announced in the High Court yesterday. The oil company complained that they were libelled in the bank's annual report published in 1966.

Mr. Robert Johnson, for the company, told Mr. Justice Brabin that the bank's report wrongly suggested that the import of oil into Pakistan had been adversely affected through poor planning by the oil company.

The bank had apologized, would pay the costs of the action and would make a donation to a Pakistani charity

Leave was given to withdraw the record of the action.

Clore threatens to close Furness yard

A threat to close down Furness Shipbuilding was made yesterday by Charles Clore, the millionaire financier.

Furness, part of Mr. Clore's Sears Holdings, recently reported estimated losses of £6,500,000.

A large section of the annual report to Sears shareholders is devoted to the difficulties of the yard since £4m. was spent on modernization. The report states that in the "absence of unforeseen catastrophes or exceptional further cost increases during the next 18 months the total provision of £6,500,000 which we have made in these accounts should meet all revenue losses on existing con-

World markets hoist crisis signals as war begins.
By GEORGE PULAY, City Editor

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 06, 1967; pg. 19; Issue 56960.

Category: Business and Finance

Gale Document Number:CS318991558

ISRAELIS THRUST DEEPER INTO SINAI

ARAB STATES BREAK OFF RELATIONS WITH US

Oil stopped and Canal closed

After a day of Arab accusations against the United States and Britain—resulting in the cutting off of oil and the closing of the Suez Canal—Egypt decided yesterday to sever diplomatic relations with the United States.



Mr. Dean Rusk, the American Secretary of State, denies Cairo's accusation of a United States air attack in a press interview at the White House.

Her example was followed by Syria, Algeria, Sudan, Iraq and Yemen. Syria and Iraq also broke off relations with Britain.

Cairo radio, in announcing the breach with Washington, reminded its listeners that Egypt had already broken off relations with Britain over the Rhodesian issue. All Americans were ordered to leave the country immediately. Washington is chartering ships to evacuate some 12,000 United States citizens from the Middle East.

The burden of the Arab accusations was that the two western powers had intervened in the Arab-Israel conflict and had provided air cover for Israel. The Egyptian Armed Forces High Command alleged last night that 32 American aircraft had left Wheelus base, in Libya, for Israel yesterday, and that British Canberra bombers had taken part in bombing Egyptian positions in Sinai on Monday afternoon.

In the second day of the fighting Israel claimed to have thrust deep into the Sinai peninsula and to have broken the Arab line in Jordan. In Jerusalem the Israel forces appeared to be in full control. The Egyptians admitted that their troops were engaged in fierce battles in Egyptian territory.

The United Nations Security Council yesterday passed a resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire.



Members of an Israel armoured unit in high spirits as they enter Rafah, in the Gaza Strip, after it had been captured.

Angry denial of UAR charge

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, JUNE 6

Russia has privately assured the United States that it has no intention of becoming militarily involved in the Arab-Israel war.

The United States has given similar assurances that it will not depart from its announced policy of non-belligerence. This explains the prompt denial this morning by Mr. Dean Rusk of Egyptian charges that American aircraft were supporting Israel forces.

The denial was broadcast by the Voice of America. The Egyptian Ambassador, Mostafa Kamel, was awakened by the State Department before dawn with a protest against the inflammatory accusations.

Mr. Rusk left the situation room in the basement of the White House to make his denial before the television cameras. He said that the Egyptians knew the malicious charge to be untrue.

It was a propaganda attempt to create difficulties in the Middle East for the United States. "We don't like this kind of charge, and hope that the U.A.R. make a minimum effort to be truthful in the future."

The Secretary was more incensed by this than by the closing of the canal, attacks on American diplomatic offices, and reports of moves to shut off oil supplies

Evacuation of 12,000

The United States later broke off diplomatic relations with the United Arab Republic as a "reciprocal" action.

WASHINGTON, June 6.—United States embassies and consulates are being authorized to charter commercial shipping to evacuate some 12,000 American citizens from the Middle East, the State Department announced.—*Reuter.*

JERUSALEM NOW AN UNDIVIDED CITY

TEL AVIV, June 6.—Israel today thrust deep into the Sinai peninsula against Egypt, while along her second front, with Jordan, reports from the Israel Command indicated the collapse of the Arab line.

The main front was still seen here as being against the United Arab Republic, where on the second day of Arab-Israel fighting Israel forces deepened their thrust down from the coastal town of El Arish to the important Abu Awgila junction.

Towns occupied

The key road junction was captured after fierce fighting to open up the main road to Ismailia in the Suez Canal Zone. On the other main front, Israel reports throughout the day presented a picture of disorganized shelling from isolated Jordan positions all along the 329-mile border.

Two important towns in the "Arab triangle" on the western bank of the Jordan river were occupied by Israel forces during the day—Jenin, forming the northern apex of the triangle, and Qalqulya, lying on the edge of Israel's narrow "waist".

In the divided holy city of Jerusalem Israel forces appeared tonight to be in full control, having established and consolidated the link with the commanding Mount Scopus, an Israel enclave inside Jordan for the past 19 years.

With Mount Scopus to the north, and key positions along the ranges of hills south of the city held by Israel forces, Jerusalem could be regarded as an undivided city, but no announcement was made in Israel about entry of its forces into the Jordan sector.

On the third front, along the Syrian border, Israel artillery and aircraft were busy during the day punishing hill positions which shelled Israel villages. The shooting raged along the entire length of the border.

Israel reported taking the town of Gaza in the strip of Egyptian territory protruding north into Israel, and also claimed to be master of the skies over the Middle East.

Israel claimed to have destroyed 374 Arab aircraft yesterday and another 15 today.

On the political front, Mr. Eshkol, the Prime Minister, appealed to the Soviet Union to join an effort to pacify the Middle East.—*Reuter.*

Britons hurt in Benghazi riot

An aircraft that took a platoon of the 4th Bn., The Royal Anglian Regiment to Benghazi this morning brought back 11 British nationals and a number of American civilians.

Travellers from Benghazi told of a day of heavy rioting in which an officer and five men of the Royal Inniskilling Dragoons were seriously burned when trapped in an armoured car which rioters set on fire.

The British and United States Embassies in Benghazi were repeatedly attacked.

It was stated officially here today that the Royal Anglians went to Benghazi with the full approval of the Libyan Government to protect British families who have now moved to the barracks area.

ALGIERS, June 6.—Libyans have blown up a water main serving an American base in Libya, Algiers radio reported today.

The radio did not name the base, but it appeared to be Wheelus Field. According to the radio, 32 American aircraft had earlier left there for Israel.—*Reuter.*

Israel planes over centre of Cairo

FROM PETER HOPKIRK

CAIRO, JUNE 6

The Egyptian High Command asserted today that there was definite proof that the United States and Britain were providing Israel with air support. According to a communiqué, American and British aircraft from carriers were supporting the Israel forces with cover on the Egyptian and Jordan fronts. It said that this had been proved by the Jordan radar network.

According to the communiqué King Husain of Jordan had got into touch with President Nasser and had informed him that he was certain British and American aircraft were playing an important role in the war. Both heads of state agreed that this must be made public to the entire Arab world and "must lead to the necessary consequences".

Cairo radio simultaneously called on arabs everywhere to "destroy American and British interests".

Embassy closure

The British interests section of the Canadian Embassy closed today except for a few members of the staff, including the guards. Most of the staff were sent to their homes in Cairo. The building and the American Embassy were put under a police guard.

CAIRO, June 6.—Israeli aircraft flew over the centre of Cairo tonight. Meanwhile Egypt admitted for the first time today that her troops were fighting off the Israelis in fierce battles in Egyptian territory.

The Supreme Command said its troops were "gallantly confronting the enemy".—*Reuter.*

WILSON REBUKE TO EGYPT

Accusations 'monstrous'

By HUGH NOYES, Westminster, Tuesday

The Prime Minister's anxiously awaited statement on the Middle East situation in the House of Commons today included a rebuke in the strongest possible terms to the United Arab Republic for "deliberate spreading of entirely false accusations" that the British and United States Air Forces had taken part in the fighting on the side of Israel.

The House was clearly relieved at Mr. Wilson's strong denial of what he described as "this monstrous story". All British ambassadors in Arab countries had been told to make clear that this was a "malicious and mischievous invention".

Mr. Wilson said that one story alleged that aircraft from British aircraft carriers had taken part. The only British aircraft carriers in the area were the Victorious and Hermes—one at Malta and the other at Aden, both over 1,000 miles away.

In view of these "incontrovertible facts", he called upon the Arab Governments not to disrupt commercial arrangements which were as much in their interests as ours, on the basis of such false statements.

Arms stopped

Members had apparently accepted Mr. Brown's plea of yesterday that the boat should not be rocked at this delicate stage, and there was general approval of the news that the Government had placed a 24-hour suspension on British arms shipments to the Middle East, while the whole matter of shipments was being discussed with other countries involved.

The Prime Minister took notice of Sir Alec Douglas-Home's warning that an unfair situation could arise if the Soviet Union continued to ship arms to the Arab countries while no arms were going to Israel.

Move to stop shipments of arms

By DAVID WOOD, Political Correspondent

Mr. Wilson kept closely in touch throughout yesterday with Washington, Moscow and Paris in an effort to promote an agreement among the four big powers on an indefinite suspension of arms deliveries to Israel and the Arab alliance.

He hopes that the four Governments will use Security Council machinery to find common ground on the supply or arms.

These efforts lay behind his announcement to the Commons after question time that Britain has placed an administrative suspension of 24 hours on arms shipments to both sides.

London dilemma

Mr. Wilson made it clear that

UN calls for end of fighting

Immediate cease-fire urged

FROM OUR UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENT

New York, June 6

The United Nations Security Council tonight adopted a motion calling for an immediate cease-fire in the Arab-Israel war. The resolution asked U Thant, the Secretary-General, to watch events and report to the Council on compliance by all parties with this urgent appeal.

Dr. Nikolai Fedorenko, the Soviet representative, told me this was a "minimum first move" and "the first step on the long road towards restoring peace and normal conditions" in the region.

It is a remarkable reversal in the formerly obdurate attitude of the Soviet Union, which had been espousing the Arab cause to the extent of refusing to accept anything less than a cease-fire coupled with a call on all the parties concerned to withdraw to the positions held by them on June 4, when the present hostilities broke out.

Two days' persuasion

During the past two days there have been protracted and patient talks in private between the 15 members of the council, with Lord Caradon (Britain) and Mr. Arthur Goldberg (United States) doing their utmost to persuade Dr. Fedorenko to see the need for stopping the fighting unconditionally.

The terms of the resolution were:—

"The Security Council, noting the oral report of the Secretary-General in this situation, having heard the statements made in the council, concerned at the outbreak of fighting and with the menacing situation in the Near East:

"1. Calls upon the Governments concerned, as a first step, to take forthwith all measures for an immediate cease-fire and for cessation of all military activities in the area;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the council promptly and currently informed of the situation."

NEW YORK, June 6.—Israel welcomed a call by the Security Council for an immediate cease-fire but warned that implementation depended on "absolute and sincere acceptance and cooperation of the other parties."—*Reuter.*

US embassy in Cairo ablaze

CAIRO, Wednesday morning.—A mob of Arab demonstrators set the United States embassy ablaze this morning. Mounted police fired tear gas into the crowds in an attempt to drive them back from the building.

Angry mob scenes were also reported in the port city of Alexandria.—*Associated Press.*

Britain most to lose from boycott

BEIRUT, June 6.—Arab states launched an oil war against Britain and the United States today after accusing them of intervening in the military conflict with Israel.

Iraq ordered cessation of pumping, and Kuwait and Algeria followed by banning oil exports to the two powers. Algeria also placed all American and British oil companies under state control.

Lebanon banned the loading on board any ship of oil from the two pipelines carrying Saudi Arabian and Iraq oil through its territory.

The Arab moves followed the decision of 11 Arab oil-producing states, at a Baghdad conference that ended yesterday, to deny oil to any country that attacked or took part in an attack on an Arab state.

An Arab oil boycott would hit Britain more than the United States. Kuwait is Britain's biggest single oil provider, supplying 23 per cent of total British imports. Iraq provides 5.2 per cent of British supplies.—*Reuter.*

Three journalists killed

TEL AVIV, June 6.—Three journalists have been reported killed in the Middle East fighting.

Mr. Ben Oyserman, a Canadian television cameraman and producer, was killed today when the car in which he was travelling struck a land mine in the Gaza strip area, usually reliable sources said.

Yesterday, Mr. Paul Schutzer, a photographer for *Life* magazine, was killed by a shell near the southern front. Mr. Ted Yates, an American television producer, died of a head wound in a Jordan hospital last night. He was hit by bullets while standing in front of his hotel on the Mount of Olives.—*Reuter.*

Obituary of Mr. Yates, page 12.



Israelis Thrust Deeper Into Sinai.
The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 07, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56961.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001671

UN MISSION IN NEGOTIATIONS

HINT OF JORDAN CEASE-FIRE

From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME, Jerusalem, June 6

Word reached Israel today that Jordan would be ready to discuss a cease-fire. At the time Israel forces were about to seal off the Jordan-held Old City of Jerusalem. There was a lull, then heavy fighting all round the city was renewed.

Jordan's peace feelers are thus still obscure and highly secret. The United Nations truce mission is said to be taking part in negotiations. On the surface Israel appears to be in a strong position, but Jordan's decision may turn out to be critical to the outcome of the war.

The prize of the Old City of Jerusalem is almost within Israel's grasp today after a night and morning of heavy fighting and gunnery. The cost to civilians in part of the Israel sector of the city has been heavy, with hundreds of houses damaged by shell fire and more than 500 wounded reported.

U N mission's loss

But in spite of almost constant Jordan heavy artillery fire night and morning, Israel forces succeeded about midday in virtually surrounding the Old City.

Some of the biggest casualties must be the United Nations truce supervisers, whose building, the former Government House, changed hands after heavy fighting.

The Jerusalem victory is reinforced by Israel's earlier capture of Latrun, the scene of an abortive assault in the war of independence. It is in a knuckle of Jordan territory overlooking the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem road and the road today was often closed while the Israelis redeployed, presumably in preparation for the total erasure of the knuckle.

Other Middle East news 4, 5, 10
Parliamentary report 6 and 7
Nicholas Herbert in Jerusalem 10
Leading articles 11
Arab strategy 11

Farther north the Jordan town of Jenin was captured, and farther still a Syrian incursion of armour and infantry was reported to have been repelled. Syrian fire caused casualties in settlements between the border and the Lake of Galilee.

Israel air strikes today were mainly directed at Iraq and Egypt after Iraq aircraft had bombed the Natanya area, causing Israel to claim to have destroyed six Iraq aircraft on the ground in a retaliatory attack.

In Sinai today each hour registered a further Israel success, such as the capture of Gaza city and a further advance into mid-Sinai.

The Israel military spokesman tonight summarized today's fighting on all fronts as follows:—

Sinai: Further advances and 150 Egyptian tanks claimed knocked out or captured. Eight more Egyptian aircraft lost. The Egyptians have now made a local withdrawal to a new line in the hills where they may be harder to dislodge.

Jerusalem: The Old City virtually surrounded but no Israel troops have entered the old part.

Heavy Syrian shelling still continues tonight after going on all day, being only partly reduced by Israel air and artillery counter-bombardments. It is not clear whether some Syrian formations are still on Israel soil after a day's heavy fighting

Hint Of Jordan Cease-Fire.
From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 07, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56961.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17132743

Israel planes over centre of Cairo

FROM PETER HOPKIRK

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Embassy closure

The British interests section of the Canadian Embassy closed today except for a few members of the staff, including the guards. Most of the staff were sent to their homes in Cairo. The building and the American Embassy were put under a police guard.

CAIRO, June 6.—Israeli aircraft flew over the centre of Cairo tonight. Meanwhile Egypt admitted for the first time today that her troops were fighting off the Israelis in fierce battles in Egyptian territory.

The Supreme Command said its troops were " gallantly confronting " Israel attacks at three points in Sinai and had inflicted heavy losses in tanks and aircraft. " Those who support the enemy continue to make good his losses ", it said.

Danger to ships

Theannouncement on theclosure of the Suez Canal said that as Israel had repeatedly tried to attack vessels passing through the waterway it had been decided to evacuate it completely to safeguard it against obstruction that might last a long time.

The announcement began by claiming that Anglo-American intervention in the Israel " aggression " had been categorically established, and that protective air cover had been given to the Israelis by British and American aircraft carriers.

" In view of all this ", it said, " it has officially been decided to stop navigation in the Suez Canal."

Tel Aviv airport reopens

TEL AVIV, June 6.—Israel reopened Tel Aviv airport to incoming civilian traffic tonight.

El Al planes from European points began arriving after nightfall. The same airport had been under Jordanian artillery fire on Monday night.—*Associated Press.*

Israel planes over centre of Cairo.
FROM PETER HOPKIRK

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 07, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56961.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17263815

WILSON REBUKE TO EGYPT

Accusations 'monstrous'

By HUGH NOYES, Westminster, Tuesday

The Prime Minister's anxiously awaited statement on the Middle East situation in the House of Commons today included a rebuke in the strongest possible terms to the United Arab Republic for "deliberate spreading of entirely false accusations" that the British and United States Air Forces had taken part in the fighting on the side of Israel.

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Arms stopped

Members had apparently accepted Mr. Brown's plea of yesterday that the boat should not be rocked at this delicate stage, and there was general approval of the news that the Government had placed a 24-hour suspension on British arms shipments to the Middle East, while the whole matter of shipments was being discussed with other countries involved.

The Prime Minister took notice of Sir Alec Douglas-Home's warning that an unfair situation could arise if the Soviet Union continued to ship arms to the Arab countries while no arms were going to Israel.

He said that this was one of the matters that would be looked into, and assured the House that a proper settlement of the arms question should be on the basis of fairness and balance between the two sides. The British Government were in the closest touch with the Soviet Union over this matter.

Move to stop shipments of arms

By DAVID WOOD, Political Correspondent

Mr. Wilson kept closely in touch throughout yesterday with Washington, Moscow and Paris in an effort to promote an agreement among the four big powers on an indefinite suspension of arms deliveries to Israel and the Arab alliance.

He hopes that the four Governments will use Security Council machinery to find common ground on the supply or arms.

These efforts lay behind his announcement to the Commons after question time that Britain has placed an administrative suspension of 24 hours on arms shipments to both sides.

London dilemma

Mr. Wilson made it clear that the British suspension of shipments will be reviewed again today when the response of the other three Governments is known, and there is no doubt that the agreement of Moscow will be crucial.

In London, the dilemma is that British arms and spares are being supplied to both Israel and Arabs, and the logic of Mr. Wilson's declared doctrine of non-commitment is that there must be a total

Wilson Rebuke To Egypt.
By HUGH NOYES

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 07, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56961.

Category: Politics and Parliament

Gale Document Number:CS17394887

New Arab attacks on embassies

Iraq plea for oil unity

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—Beirut, June 6

Feeling in the Arab countries against the United States and Britain was high today after accusations from Cairo, Damascus and Amman that they were helping Israel in its war against the Arabs. Demonstrations broke out in Beirut, Damascus, Alexandria and other towns.

The first charge was made in an Egyptian High Command statement saying that aircraft carriers in the eastern Mediterranean had provided Israel with an air " umbrella " while it attacked the Arab countries. Jordan also accused the two western powers of providing air support for Israel, which launched an all-night battle against Jordanian forces in Jerusalem.

Meeting proposed

An official Damascus statement then said that Anglo-American support was proved by the intensity of the Israel air attacks, by the observations of Syrian pilots and the confession of an Israel pilot taken prisoner.

In Beirut the demonstrators went to the American Embassy and a fuel station was set on fire. The police dispersed the demonstrators and put a strong guard on the embassy.

In Damascus the American and British embassies were stoned by demonstrators, but the police arrived before any serious damage was done.

The accusations also resulted in Iraq and Kuwait deciding to cut off oil from Britain and the United States, and in Egypt closing the Suez Canal. Lebanon also announced the shutting off of the pipelines carrying Iraq and Saudi oil to its Mediterranean ports for export.

Iraq's decision was given in a statement by President Arif, who also suggested a meeting of Arab Foreign Ministers in Cairo to take a unified attitude. Kuwait approved the Iraq proposal for a meeting.

However, President Nasser sent messages today to seven Arab heads of state proposing the adoption of a unified attitude towards Britain and America.

About 100 American citizens left Beirut today on the advice of their embassy. The rest of the Americans here will be given a final chance to leave tomorrow on board chartered aircraft.

Cairo and Damascus radios continue to whip up the feeling against Britain and the United States in spite of the denials by both countries that support has been given to Israel. Cairo radio speaks persistently of a " plot against the Arab world ".

New Arab attacks on embassies.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 07, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56961.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67333319

Belgian food shops start rationing

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

BRUSSELS, JUNE 6

Rationing was imposed in most Brussels grocery shops today as housewives and speculators bought up supplies of non-perishable food in expectation of war and consequent restrictions.

Small shopkeepers served limited quantities to regular customers only. The bigger supermarkets stationed staff in their car parks to identify shoppers making several incursions into the shops.

Staff at cash desks were increased to take unsanctioned purchases back to the shelves, where the rationing notices were posted.

In spite of the precautions several big shops were out of rice and cooking and salad oils within half an hour of opening. Shortages of sugar developed in the next half-hour followed by coffee, soap, starch, canned fish and macaroni.

The situation contains one compensation for housewives. Because they cannot buy sugar for jam-making there has been a sharp fall in the price of fruit.

Ships diverted to Cape Town

CAPE TOWN, June 6.—South Africa's main ports prepared today for a big traffic tangle as scores of ships on the high seas altered course from war-threatened Suez for the safe Cape route.

Most of the 1,500 vessels that use the Suez Canal, closed today by Egypt, are likely to divert to the South Atlantic route.—*Reuter.*

Sudan warning to envoys

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

KHARTUM, June 6

Muhammad Mahgoub, the Prime Minister of Sudan, today saw the British and American Ambassadors in connexion with reports that both countries were supporting Israel and warned them that such an attitude might lead to a severance of diplomatic relations.

The postal union at Port Sudan has refused to handle British and American ships calling at the port and stevedoring workers today refused to deal with two British ships which were leaving.

Belgian food shops start rationing.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 07, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56961.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68381895

AMERICA CONFIDENT ON OIL

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT—New York, June 6

American oil officials said today that the states of Louisiana and Texas alone could increase production in a fortnight sufficiently to replace imports, which could then be diverted to other countries hit by an Arab embargo on exports.

At present the United States imports about 2.500,000 of the 12m. barrels a day it consumes, mostly from Venezuela. Only 400.000 barrels come from Arab countries.

Mr. Jim Langdon, chairman of the Texas railway commission, which sets production quotas in the state, said that it could produce between 1m. and 1,500.000 barrels a day more within 10 or 15 days. Mr. J. M. Menefee, the Louisiana conservation commissioner, said his state could produce about the same immediate increase. "We could make the change overnight; it would just be a matter of turning the valves", he added.

The chief anxiety among American oil magnates is not about supply in the short term, but control of production in the future. Most of the large American companies have an important investment in the Middle East, among them Standard Oil of New Jersey, Mobil, Gulf, Texaco, Phillips, Standard Oil of Indiana, and Standard Oil of California.

Matter of markets

Of the two most bellicose Arab countries, Syria produces no oil, while Egypt is not far beyond the "strike" stage—but Syria commands the pipelines from Iraq, and Egypt the Suez Canal. Although they probably overvalue the importance of both in the era of the 100,000-ton tanker, they are inevitably less inhibited than most of the nine countries which are significant producers.

All the same, the oil companies are less cheerful than they used to be about the argument that even if most of the countries could extract their oil they could not market it, and would find it difficult to maintain their installations. Together Abu Dhabi, Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Oatar, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt produce more than 9m. barrels a day of a total noncommunist world consumption of 23m. barrels—double the figure at the time of the Suez affair.

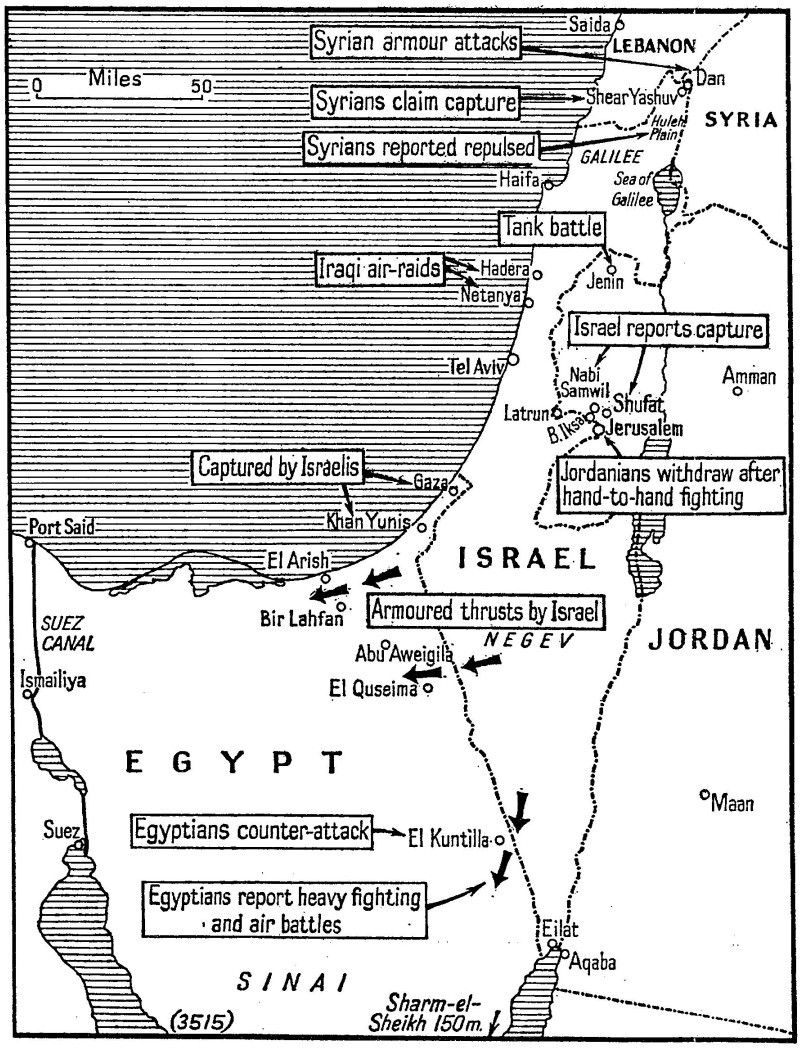
By a sort of Grimm's law, the cheapest and most abundant producing areas lie in Arab countries with the least-developed political institutions or, in the case of Algeria, the governments most mistrusting the west. In matters affecting Palestine they are obliged to go along with Egypt, whether their leaders want to or not.

Electric power

If the present trouble last for long, the American industry expects a long and burdensome period of negotiation, exasperating and probably involving expensive temporary or permanent readjustment of world-wide arrangements, before things settle down again.

Another aspect of the concern which has been noted here is the future of the internal combustion car. If one or more west European countries should be obliged to ration petrol because of a prolonged crisis, the already lively interest in electric power would have an enormous spur.

If, as a result, a comparably cheap and efficient electric car were developed more quickly, political pressure not only in Europe but in the United States for legislation against air pollution would be pushing against an open door.



America Confident On Oil.
FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 07, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56961.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68512967

Plea for Arabs angers MPs

Private meeting protest

BY OUR POLITICAL STAFF

Feelings were roused among some pro-Israel Labour M.P.s at a private meeting of the party's foreign affairs group last night when they heard Mr. Christopher Mayhew, the former Minister for the Navy, defend President Nasser's policies.

Mr. John Mendelson and Mr. Leo Abse strongly attacked Mr. Mayhew's thesis and in turn aroused resentment among supporters of the Government policy of non-intervention.



Captain Lavon Merdichai, an Israel pilot, is in Egyptian hands.

Mr. Mayhew denied that President Nasser was a racialist. After a reminder that he had interviewed him recently for television, he said that President Nasser did not mean the annihilation of the Jews when he spoke of the liberation of Palestine. He wanted the reconstruction of Israel as a non-Zionist, multi-racialist state that would include some of the Palestinian Arab refugees.

Mr. Mendelson quoted examples of the Arab world's anti-Jewish policies and demanded an assurance from the Government that Britain would not leave Israel short of arms while Russia continued to ship arms to Egypt.

Mr. James Dickens, who gave an account of his recent visit to Egypt as an official guest, said the Arabs had a cass that had not been put to the public because of British hostility to President Nasser.

German ban on recruits

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BONN, JUNE 6

The west German Government will prevent men of military age from volunteering for the Middle East, it was stated today. Men between the ages of 18 and 45 who are due for military service in Germany will not be allowed to volunteer for Israel or Arab forces.

Volunteers for humanitarian work are not included. Dr. Kiesinger, the Chancellor, said tonight that the Government was discussing measures with the German Red Cross for helping victims of the hostilities.

Volunteers again disappointed

None of the hundreds of Jewish volunteers waiting to fly to Israel were able to travel yesterday. Although three El Al Boeings took off from Heathrow airport, London, for Tel Aviv. The jets carried only a few passengers, among them Israel Embassy staff, journalists, and a doctor. The route taken by the airliners was kept secret "for obvious reasons".

One of the aircraft, the third which arrived from New York yesterday with 26 passengers for Tel Aviv, left again after less than two hours at Heathrow. It picked up two passengers in London, one of them Mr. Winston S. Churchill, grandson of Sir Winston.

For the second day running Topol, the Israel star of the West End musical, "Fiddler on the Roof", failed to get back to Tel Aviv. He missed the first flight and was told later that there was no room for him on the other services. "I will try again tomorrow", he said.

Cambridge Arabs volunteer

Forty Cambridge students volunteered late last night to fly out to the Middle East within 24 hours. They were Arab undergraduates, going to fight for the Arab states.

"Egypt and the other Arab states have enough manpower to supply workers", said their spokesman, Mr. Hussein Hassouna, an Egyptian. "What they need are fighting men."

Strong appeal by Italy

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

ROME, JUNE 6

A group of leading Italian intellectuals, including Signor Federico Fellini, Signor Vittorio de Sica and Signor Alberto Lattuada, the film director, appealed today to the "civilized world to make every effort to protect the people and the state of Israel". The appeal declared that the existence of the Israeli people is once again "exposed to a blind desire for genocide". Other signers included Signor Italo Calvino and Signor Giancarlo Vigorelli, the writers, and a number of leading academics.

Russian restraint in press

MOSCOW, June 6.—A measure of restraint was noticed here today in Soviet press and radio reports of the conflict between Israel and the Arab countries.

The Soviet Union has conspicuously avoided so far reporting an allegation by Cairo that the United States and British aircraft joined Israel aircraft in striking Egyptian positions when fighting broke out yesterday morning.

The press has not reported an appeal to Mr. Kosygin by the Israel Premier, Mr. Levi Eshkol, that Moscow join in efforts for peace in the Middle East.

Tass has distributed reports on the fighting not only from Arab capitals but also from Tel Aviv. Two Tass dispatches from Tel Aviv today reported without commentary that Israel troops had captured the towns of Gaza and Jenin and had occupied the Jordan sector of Jerusalem.—*New York Times Service.*

Steps on aid by Red Cross

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

GENEVA, JUNE 6

The international committee of the Red Cross has appealed to all states in the Middle East conflict to respect the Geneva Conventions, to which all of them are signatories.

In a statement, the committee points out that the conventions prescribe protection and humane treatment for the wounded and sick, for prisoners of war and civilians, as well as respect for hospitals, ambulances and medical establishments.

The committee's information agency on prisoners of war and civilians is functioning here in Geneva. Its delegates in the belligerent countries have been assigned to organize measures to aid all victims of the conflict.



Israel troops line up prisoners in the Gaza Strip for identification.

E GERMAN STAND ON EQUALITY

Status problem in Bonn

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT—Bonn, June 6

Herr Willy Stoph, the east German Prime Minister, said in Dresden today that any talks which took place in the near future between west Germany and east Germany must be "on a level of equals" on both sides.

The Bonn Government must drop its claim to be the only Government which represented the whole German people, and also give up its hostile attitude towards east Germany, he added.

Herr Stoph's statement comes on the eve of what is expected to be a decision by the west German Cabinet on how to reply to a letter sent by the east German Prime Minister to Dr. Kiesinger, the west German Chancellor, a month ago.

Herr Stoph's letter, delivered in Bonn on May 10, caused great excitement in the west German capital, and Dr. Kiesinger caused an even greater sensation by opening the letter and reading it.

No such thing had been done since 1951, when Professor Theodor Heuss, the west German Head of State, accepted and replied to a letter from President Pieck, the east German Head of State. After that all letters from east Germany were returned unopened on the instructions of Dr. Adenauer.

Recognition issue

For a month now Dr. Kiesinger and the two parties in his Coalition Government, the Christian Democrat Union and Social Democrat Party, have been poring over the problem of how to reply to Herr Stoph's letter.

Dr. Kiesinger, supported by the Social Democrats but against the advice of some members of his own Christian Democratic Union, favours a written reply, but the problem would be how to begin the letter to Herr Stoph.

Some legal experts claim that a letter starting off "My dear Prime Minister" would automatically imply a recognition of east Germany as a state, which is the last thing Bonn wants to do, others dismiss this argument as rubbish.

The alternatives now being solemnly canvassed are "Dear Prime Minister", "Dear Chairman of the Council of Ministers", "Dear Chairman", or simply "Dear Mr. Stoph". "Dear Willy" seems to be ruled out.

Legalists who claim that to begin the letter "Dear Prime Minister" would mean a recognition of east Germany appear to forget that Dr. Heuss, in 1951, addressed Herr Pieck as "Dear President", and nobody complained.

British soldier in German custody

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BONN, JUNE 6

Driver John Keith Smart, aged 19, of 66 Squadron, the Royal Corps of Transport, at Nienburg, who has been charged with the murder of a 20-year-old German girl, was today handed over to German custody for trial.

He has been held by the British authorities since April 26, the day on which the girl's body was discovered at Sennelager. She had apparently been strangled with a stocking.

The German authorities have asked for jurisdiction in this case under the status of forces agreement of 1963.

Ordeal in Hongkong

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

HONGKONG, JUNE 6

A Scottish dockyard manager was mobbed by slogan-shouting Chinese workmen for seven hours here today and forced to sign a political poster.

The man, Mr. J. Cassels, manager of the Taikoo dockyard, told me tonight that the incident was of a political nature. It was evidently connected with the recent riots.

"It lasted from half-past eight in the morning until half-past three in the afternoon", Mr. Cassels said, sounding exhausted after his ordeal.

He was forced to stand in the open under the blazing sun for two hours; later the proceedings were shifted to the shelter of a canopy. The striking dockyard workers had waved quotations from Mao Tse-tung, shouted slogans, and shaken fists in his face. He and an assistant had been forced to sign a political poster.

Mini-skirts are out



Plea for Arabs angers MPs.
BY OUR POLITICAL STAFF

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 07, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56961.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS84110535

Arms deliveries to Middle East stopped for 24 hours: Russian attitude not clear

MR. HAROLD WILSON (Huyton, Lab.), answering five questions about his weekend discussions in Canada and the United States, said:—

During my visit I was able to have very full discussions over a wide range of topics with the Prime Minister of Canada, the President of the United States of America, the Secretary General of the United Nations, and the President of the Security Council. Much of the content of these discussions must of necessity remain confidential, but I can tell the House that the situation in the Middle East figured prominently in all of them; and that, in addition, President Johnson and I discussed the situation in Vietnam in some depth.

My talks about the Middle East were aimed at securing conditions in which the countries concerned in the Middle East could be fairly asked to maintain continued restraint and not to resort to violent action. In particular, they related to the problem of the freedom of passage in the Strait of Tiran.

Pattern of fighting

The events of yesterday morning have overtaken these discussions, but the House will recognize their direct relevance to any long-term settlement capable of securing and maintaining peace in the Middle East on a basis which could be regarded as honourable by all concerned in the area.

It will be our objective in securing the ceasefire for which we are pressing to ensure that such a long term settlement is achieved. The issues I was able to discuss in such depth last week will of course be highly relevant.

Since the Foreign Secretary spoke to the House yesterday there has been a flood of news, a great deal of it conflicting, about the fighting in the Middle East, though a pattern seems to be emerging. The most serious operations on the ground seem to have been on the United Arab Republic/Israel border but information about them is unclear and disputed.

Yesterday's air action by the Israel Air Force against United Arab Republic airfields was extended to airfields in Jordan and Syria. There are also reports of advances by Israel forces into Jordanian territory and the capture of the towns of Jenin and Latrun. The local truce in Jerusalem which was arranged yesterday did not, unfortunately, hold and fighting continued into the night.

I would like to add the voice of her Majesty's Government to that of his Holiness the Pope and others who have appealed for a cessation of fighting in the Jerusalem area before terrible damage is done to places which are sacred for three of the great religions of the world.

Monstrous story refuted

A most serious development has been the deliberate spreading by the United Arab Republic Government of entirely false accusations that British and American air forces have taken part in the fighting on the side of Israel.

It has been reported that President Nasser has announced that he will in retaliation close the Suez Canal to navigation. President Aref of Iraq is also reported to have said that he has ordered a cessation of the pumping of oil to the Mediterranean for the same reason. There have also been reports that the Kuwait Government have forbidden oil exports to British and American destinations.

Her Majesty's Government have already categorically denied this monstrous story, and all our Ambassadors in the Arab countries have been instructed to make clear to the local governments that this is a malicious and mischievous invention.

One story alleges that aircraft from British aircraft carriers have taken part in the fighting. During the past week the only British aircraft carriers in the area have been H.M.S. Victorious, which has been at Malta, and H.M.S. Hermes, which has been at Aden, each over 1,000 miles away.

In view of these incontrovertible facts we are calling upon the Arab Governments not to disrupt commercial arrangements which are as much in their interest as ours on the basis of such false statements.

In New York the Security Council met promptly as foreshadowed but then rose for private consultations which continued for 14 hours. I can only tell the House of my regret that a resolution calling for a prompt and general ceasefire has not yet been passed. I think it is vital that there should be no further delay.

As regards the shipment of arms we are consulting with other Governments who are suppliers for the area. The House will realize the desirability of ensuring, so far as we are able, that any embargo covers all arms supplies to the area from whatever source. (Cheers.) Pending the outcome of our consultations we are suspending any further shipments to any of the countries involved.

Canal closure illegal

MR. HEATH (Bexley, C.).—The House was glad to hear the Prime Minister confirm that in his discussions with President Johnson he made it clear that any measures to assert the rights of maritime powers in the Gulf of Aqaba are hence relevant and they must take their part in any peaceful settlement for a permanent peace.

We agree with the Prime Minister that he is absolutely right to use every means possible to show to the Arab countries that British forces are taking no part in the conflict.

In his discussions with President Johnson, what contingency plans were made to deal with the situation, which might now have been brought about, if the Suez Canal is closed and certain Arab countries deny oil to Britain and the United States?

Is he having any discussion with European colleagues on what action can be taken to deal with this situation?

Can he state the Government's view whether President Nasser is entitled in these circumstances to close the canal or not? It would appear, even on his own position in 1957, that he is not entitled to do that. It would be possible to get an interim order from the International Court making this clear.

Did the Prime Minister propose changes in his policy in the Far East for British forces and Aden as a result of the present situation?

Conflicting news

MR. WILSON.—The principal contingency plans we started to discuss were those that would have been required in a different situation in relation to Aqaba. We arranged to keep in the closest touch, as we have done, on any change in development if fighting were to break out.

We had some discussion on oil, and discussions will continue. With regard to the United States and the European countries who might be involved if these plans were proceeded with, the right forum for this is O.E.C.D., which has its own special arrangements for dealing with all matters, emergency or otherwise, in relation to oil.

The news about the Suez Canal is very conflicting. Whether there is a temporary or more than temporary closure, there seems to be some confirmation from the area that the canal is at this moment closed. We do not know how long it will last.

As to the entitlement to close it, Mr. Heath is right. Closure, whether for a reason of the kind that I hope I have satisfactorily dealt with, or any other reason, to peaceful nations—and Britain is in that position—is quite beyond the legal capacity of President Nasser.

Blackmail threat

SIR KNOX CUNNINGHAM (Antrim, South, U.U.) asked him to say what understandings were reached in his discussions with President Johnson with regard to maintaining all United Kingdom oil supplies from across the Atlantic.

MR. WILSON.—There were no detailed discussions about that particular contingency, apart from the arrangements for urgent discussions if a situation like this were to arise.

I am sure that, in spite of the feverish heat and passion in the Middle East at this time, the Middle East countries concerned, especially their governments, will recognize that what they are talking of doing is not so much cutting off our oil but cutting off our markets from their oil. This might have very serious effects about their long-term sales position.

This country would not be willing to be put twice in a decade in a position where this kind of threat of blackmail may be held out.

There might be a number of people in this country thinking in terms of long-term contracts with other oil supplying areas, which could have the most profound and devastating effects, which we would all regret, on the Middle East.

MR. BLAKER (Blackpool, South C.).—Does not Article 1 of the 1888 Convention say the canal would be open in peace or war to ships of all nations?

MR. WILSON.—I was trying to make clear is that we are not at war with Egypt, as this tendentious propaganda suggested. We are, in that context, a completely peaceful nation not taking sides in this dispute. Clearly, in these circumstances, they have no right to close the canal to us or to others because of the kind of trumped up statements that have been made.

MR. ALFRED MORRIS (Manchester, Wythenshawe, Lab.).— In the discussions with the President of the United States was any consideration given to bilateral or multilateral action outside the United Nations if the United Nations finds it impossible to conciliate in this conflict in the Middle East?

MR. WILSON.—To some extent the context in which we are speaking has been changed by the events of yesterday. We were concerned with what could be done to secure understanding about freedom of passage through the Strait of Tiran.

In these circumstances we decided to put full weight behind the Security Council, and at the same time to try and secure this multilateral declaration of maritime powers, and only if this failed would we be prepared to consider other means. In the event, while the Aqaba question may be highly relevant to a peace settlement, it has been overtaken by the outbreak of fighting.

Tripartite declaration

MR. THORPE (Devon, North, L.).—Accepting that the Government's first priority is to obtain a ceasefire through the United Nations, does the Prime Minister recall that in 1950 a Labour Government made a firm declaration, in company with the Americans and French, that they would intervene to prevent violation of armistice or frontier lines in the Middle East?

On the assumption that Israel is threatened with being driven into the sea, do we take it the Government intend to wash their hands of this obligation, or do they have a continuing moral obligation for the future of this state?

MR. WILSON.—The question is extremely hypothetical. That declaration was made principally in the context of arms supplies at a time when the signatories to it were the only arms suppliers to the Middle East.

The situation has been very much changed since that time. Mr. Macmillan in 1963, and the Foreign Secretary and I since, have made it clear we do not think it is relevant to the present situation. What is relevant is our obligations as members of the United Nations.

MR. SANDYS (Streatham, C.) asked for some indication of the kind of action Mr. Wilson had in mind to secure the reopening of the Suez Canal. (Laughter.)

MR. WILSON.—It is only in the past few hours this report has come through. We have been checking on its accuracy, content, and meaning. I am sure you would not wish us to jump to any conclusion about what our attitude should be, and I am sure you would not want that we should jump to the wrong conclusion about it.

Sterling balances

MR. HALE (Oldham, West, Lab.) said a number of the combatant Arab nations were part of the sterling area. Had not the war on their side been financed partly at the expense of the pound? Might it not be necessary, in view of the embargoes announced today, reluctantly to consider a moratorium on these states who had declared a trade war upon Britain?

MR. WILSON.—I am sure Mr. Hale did not mean that we were in some way financing this war. We are not financing it in any way.

It is true a number of countries on both sides hold balances in this country. This is a commercial matter, and I am sure Mr. Hale's suggestion would not be appropriate in present circumstances.

We have had no suggestion in any form of economic warfare against this country, and it would be quite wrong to consider that suggestion.

MR. BURDEN (Gillingham, C.) said the malicious invention of Colonel Nasser regarding air cover, might indicate the massive blows that were struck against him. It also indicated a very dangerous situation in which, whenever such blows were struck, Colonel Nasser might well try to blame Britain to involve us with Russia.

However successful the Israelis might be they could never conquer the Arab states. Would the Prime Minister agree to put into immediate discussions with the United Nations considerations to try to ensure the future of Israel when the war was ended?

MR. WILSON said Mr. Burden had only indicated part of the dangers. When the Foreign Secretary met the Arab ambassadors later today he would give them chapter and verse of our denial of this malicious statement that was being made. This was also being made clear in the capitals of the countries concerned.

Britain could best help by not entering into declarations with regard to the future of Israel. Our job was to help, with others on the Security Council, to get a peace which would satisfy the honourable requirements of all parties in this area.

MR. WINNICK (Croydon, South Lab.) said many people in Britain now considered Israel was in the same position as Britain had been in 1940—standing alone and fighting those who wanted to destroy her and put her people to death.

MR. WILSON.—Historical parallels, particularly in the Middle East, could lead to the wrong conclusions, and dangerous courses of action. Britain has stated her position and the Israeli Government have made clear they are fighting in this conflict on their own, and do not desire outside help. It would be harmful to follow up Mr. Winnick's kind of question.

Arms from Russia

SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME (Kinross and West Perth, C.) said that the Prime Minister, in talking about the arms embargo, had rightly said the matter needed close consideration because it covered all suppliers. He understood Mr. Wilson to say that Britain was suspending the shipment of arms to any country in the area.

He will be quite aware (he said) that the Soviet Union are doing nothing of the kind. Am I mistaken? How long are shipments from this country to be suspended if the Russians do not take similar action?

MR. WILSON.—We are trying to find out the position with regard to the other countries—there has been a statement made by France, and we are trying to get it verified and elaborated. The position of the Soviet Union does need to be more clearly known than it is.

I agree that whatever is done should not be on a basis which creates unfairness as between one side and the other in the Middle East.

We have arms deliveries on order not only from Israel but other countries in the Middle East. We are therefore temporarily making this administrative suspension on shipments whilst we are exploring the situation with other countries. We shall review the matter again tomorrow. It is a 24-hour suspension in the first place.

MR. MENDELSON (Penistone, Lab.).—If the Soviet Government are continuing arms supplies to Eygpt and Syria, whose Governments are publicly pledged to the destruction of Israel, will the Prime Minister give an undertaking that Britain will not leave the people of Israel without the wherewithall to defend themselves? (Cheers.)

MR. WILSON.—I have said that we believe that the proper settlement of the arms question should be on the basis of fairness and balance between the two sides which are fighting.

Certainly if we were to find arms were coming from anywhere else to one side that would be an important consideration to be taken up in our reconsiderations tomorrow. We are stopping them at the moment until we have a clear picture of the international arms supply level.

Protecting Jerusalem

MR. BOYD - CARPENTER (Kingston upon Thames, C.).—In view of the disappointing news the Prime Minister gave us of the state of affairs in Jerusalem, will he, as damage there would be a world tragedy, take steps to have Jerusalem declared an open city, in the same way and for the same purposes that Rome was in the latter stages of the late war?

MR. WILSON.—We fully support the appeal of his Holiness the Pope, and, indeed, we have gone further and made plain our willingness to assist in bringing about a local ceasefire to protect Jerusalem, to stop not only the carnage and damage there but to protect the holy city itself. We are prepared to—and have been trying to—arrange a local ceasefire.

MR. HEFFER (Liverpool, Walton, Lab.).—Can the Prime Minister indicate what discussions are going on now with the Soviet Government to stop Soviet arms going to the Middle East. (Cheers.)

MR. WILSON.—We are in the closest touch with the Soviet Government. I have exchanged a number of messages with Mr. Kosygin on the broader issues, and the Foreign Secretary is in close touch with their ambassador—I saw him this afternoon—to establish the position. When we have established it we will consider in the light of that what our attitude should be.

REAR ADM. MORGAN GILES (Winchester, C.).—In view of the threats to British interests will the Prime Minister make an unequivocal statement that Britain will maintain an effective presence east of Suez for the foreseeable future? (Opposition cheers.)

MR. WILSON. — This raises wider questions than the Middle East position, although it is a fair question because it arises from my discussions with the President of the United States.

We are considering that position. I can now take into account the views of the President, and these will be discussed with Australia and New Zealand in the next few weeks.

Breakdown in U.N.

MR. HUGH FRASER (Stafford and Stone, C.).—Perhaps the most disturbing element of the situation has been the total breakdown of the United Nations and the Security Council.

Would the Prime Minister urgently call a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the four great powers, first to see if there cannot be an agreement about reinforcement and arms for the area and, should this breakdown, to establish a *cordon sanitaire* to see that no arms get in?

MR. WILSON.—I think that approach is not the right one. All of us feel, as was stated clearly last week, that the United Nations has taken a serious blow by its decision three weeks ago. This point I made very strongly when I was in the United Nations building. But it must now be for the Security Council to secure a ceasefire.

It is right that the four powers concerned, instead of calling a conference sometime in the future, should work, as we are trying to work, within the Security Council to get that. If it cannot be done by quadripartite discussion inside the Security Council it cannot be done by quadripartite discussion outside.

Watch on colliery heaps

MR. CRAWSHAW (Liverpool, Toxteth, Lab.) asked the Minister of Power if he was now satisfied that all slag heaps had been sufficiently examined to ensure that they did not constitute a hazard.

MR. FREESON, Parliamentary Secretary. The Minister has ascertained from the National Coal Board that all colliery spoil heaps in their ownership have been critically examined and remedial measures taken in any case where there was the possibility of a hazard to the surrounding area.

A procedure has been established by the board for technical and operational control over spoil heaps, which includes frequent and regular investigations by specialists to ensure safety and stability.

The board have also arranged courses of instruction in spoil heap management.

Gipsy Moth at Montreal

MR. DALYELL (West Lothian, Lab.) asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs if he would make available facilities to enable Gipsy Moth IV to be shown at Expo '67 in Montreal.

MR. GEORGE THOMAS, Minister of State.—The Commonwealth Office and the Board of Trade have for some weeks been considering the possibility that Sir Francis Chichester and Gipsy Moth IV should visit the British Week at Toronto as well as Expo 67 at Montreal. An approach in this sense has been made to Sir Francis Chichester and his views are awaited.

Arms deliveries to Middle East stopped for 24 hours: Russian attitude not clear.
The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 07, 1967; pg. 7; Issue 56961.

Category: Politics and Parliament

Gale Document Number:CS117796039

The takeover in Jerusalem as seen by The Times correspondent Nicholas Herbert

Arab youths ask: What became of our air force?

ISRAEL-OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, JUNE 6

Israel ground forces began moving through the streets of the Jordan sector of Jerusalem early today after a night of heavy artillery bombardment. Sporadic ground fighting continued near the Garden of Gethsemane, but the main battle appeared to have passed beyond Jerusalem.

King Husain called on the Jordan Army to defend their land, and Amman radio said Jordan intended to counterattack, but this seemed an unlikely move.

Arab morale in the Jordanian sector collapsed quickly at the sight of Israel tank and infantry patrols and other vehicles moving through the deserted streets. In the National Palace hotel where four British and American newspaper correspondents are staying the portrait of King Husain was swiftly removed from the wall and a white table napkin hung on the front door.

During a night of thunderous artillery barrages mixed with the screaming of bombs, it was impossible to know what was happening. The five-storey hotel was shaken to its foundations and I lay on the floor of my room wondering whether the windows were going to blow in and whether the curtains would help stop glass fragments.

American dies of wounds

Ted Yates, a television producer for the American National Broadcasting Company, died during the night of a head wound received near the Intercontinental hotel at the very beginning of yesterday's fighting.

Soon after dawn Israel aircraft staged a massive raid on Jordanian positions near the Augusta Victoria hospital on Mount Scopus from which firing had been directed at the Israel-held Hadassah hospital. Mystère fighter bombers came in low, their bombs exploding only a few seconds after they swooped away above the Holy City and turned in to the attack again.

Jordan anti-aircraft fire was sporadic and the Israel aircraft flew over the entire area with impunity, swooping out of sight below the Judean hills, strafing and bombing Jordanian positions. At no time during the 24 hours after the battle began were any Jordanian aircraft seen. During the hours before dusk Israel Mirage and Mystère aircraft flew dozens of sorties. One Mirage was hit by anti-aircraft fire and plunged into the Jordan valley.

Soon after seven this morning the heavy rumble of a tank was heard passing the hotel. At first it was assumed to be Jordanian or Iraqi. Soon afterwards intense small arms fire broke out near the Palestine Museum, from whose octagonal turret puffs of smoke emerged.

Troops identified by language

Then we noticed a blue and white flag fluttering from the mast and realized the possibility that the Israelis had occupied the museum during the night's fighting. However, the wind was blowing the flag towards us and were unable to identify it positively even with field glasses.

Our doubts were soon removed. A patrol of Israel soldiers in camouflaged battle-dress came into sight below us as we crouched behind a parapet of the hotel, 600 yards from the Mandelbaum Gate. They wore American style steel helmets and were identified by the language in which their leader shouted his orders.

Soon afterwards a jeep with Hebrew markings passed the same way, and thereafter half-tracks and lorries passed regularly. One patrol inquired at the hotel whether any English-speaking people were there. They asked me whether any soldiers had been in the building, and which way they had fled. I replied that there had never been any soldiers there, and after warning us to stay indoors on pain of being shot, the patrol moved on.

Artillery battle moves away

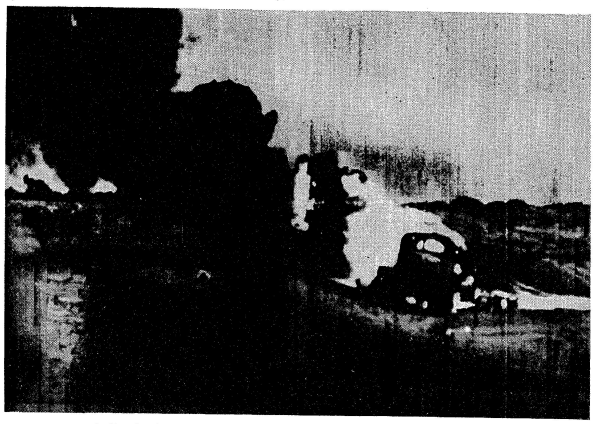
Israel aircraft continued to strafe the road to Mount Scopus and small arms fire could be heard from the direction of the Old City, but the main artillery battle had apparently moved off beyond Jerusalem. Morale among the little Arab community sheltering in the hotel basement quickly evaporated and some even shouted "Shalom" at passing soldiers.

Earlier youths had been asking sadly: "Where are the one hundred million Arabs? Where is the Jordan Air Force?"

Amman airport was heavily damaged in yesterday's air attack by Israel jets. The runway was put out of commission and three or four aircraft destroyed on the ground. They included a Jordanian Air Force Hawker Hunter, the British Air Attaché's twin-engined aircraft, and another belonging to General Odd Bull, the United Nations commander. Damage to the military side of the airport was not known, but blazing fuel dumps told their own tale in the sky.

Meanwhile the British Embassy is trying to evacuate the wives and children of the 500 British subjects in Jordan, but with the Middle East ablaze the difficulties are enormous. The attempt will not be made any easier by the latest anti-British mood here, encouraged by Egyptian radio propaganda that British and American forces are helping the Israelis.

To make matters worse, Cairo radio is saying that British, not Israel, jets attacked Amman airport yesterday, in spite of the fact that the aircraft were identified as French-built Mystères and Mirages, which are flown by the Israelis and not by the British or Americans.



An Egyptian Army lorry burning on the road to Gaza during the Israel advance yesterday.

Jordan plays greater part than expected

From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME, Tel Aviv, June 6

The behaviour of Jordan has become, unexpectedly, an important factor in the Arab-Israel war.

In their risky decision to deal a knock-out blow against Egyptian troops in Sinai and the Egyptian Air Force the Israelis were taking a gamble that Syria and Jordan to their rear, would make only a token show of strength and would not present a formidable military threat requiring the diversion of too much of Israel's effort from the big battle in Sinai.

There is some evidence that the joint Jordan-Egypt command might have been planning to transfer some Egyptian troops to Jordan within the next few days, and if that had been allowed to happen there would clearly have been no hope of Jordan not becoming an active participant in the fighting.

Yet the scale of Jordan's reaction to the war already suggests that she is much more actively committed than had been expected here. It could be, indeed, that the very severity of Israel's air strikes against the Jordan Air Force have, instead of serving as a deterrent to further Jordan intervention, made it in fact all the more hard for the Jordanians to stay out of the battle.

What does the Jordan position imply? In the first place it cannot fail to tie down a considerable Israel effort in the defence of Jerusalem, which cannot be lost at any price. The fighting in Jerusalem has been very severe. Tactically each street may not appear to be important, but every yard of the city is steeped with emotions 2,000 years old, and is fought for with appropriate desperation.

The fight will not be lost by Israel, but the Jordan element is possibly more important indirectly in the sense that it may affect the extent of Israel's advance into Sinai. A full advance across the Sinai peninsula would leave Israel's lines of communications extended and her rear left flank temptingly exposed to a Jordan expedition.

Admittedly Israel's air superiority will continue to make it all the more hard for the Arabs to move their ground forces, but it may not stop them altogether.

Losses of aircraft

The air situation itself requires a little more detailed examination than was possible last night, when the extravagant claims were made that nearly 400 Arab aircraft had been destroyed on the ground.

The purpose of a preemptive air strike is normally to destroy runways and thus make it impossible for enemy air forces to take to the air. The grounded air forces may then be picked off at leisure. It seems more likely that yesterday's count, whatever the official spokesman's claims, should really refer to the number of aircraft grounded rather than destroyed.

It should also be remembered that these estimates are acquired by photo reconnaissance by an aircraft flying in soon after the strike, and cannot be considered categorically reliable. Even supposing that the claims were fully substantiated, it should still leave Egypt with about 200 combat aircraft and Syria with about 100, although Jordan may have very few.

It remains to be seen whether the Arabs will make any attempt to regroup their surviving air forces and repair their runways or whether they have received a bloody enough nose already. Hostile aircraft are still flying, to judge from the air raid warnings which started up again in Tel Aviv soon after dawn today.

The advance into Sinai obviously continues, but there is ultimately little point in Israel advancing into Sinai unless she can evict the Egyptian forces from the whole peninsula, including Sharm el Sheikh, and then hold the position.

The Egyptian forces are deeply deployed in the desert and it is doubtful if their full formations have yet been encountered by the Israel advance, although many prisoners, captured equipment, and Egyptian casualties are claimed in Tel Aviv.

when a boy becomes a

MAN



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Suez closure endangers India's food supplies

BY THE NEWS TEAM

President Nasser's abrupt closure of the Suez Canal yesterday could mean that the Arab-Israel war kills more people in India (which, ironically, supports the Arab position) than in the Middle East itself.

Indian Government officials in London and Washington told the News Team that they were "anxious" about the effect of President Nasser's move on their grain shipments from the United States and Canada.

India, at present suffering from severe famine, has been importing 1 million tons of grain a month from the United States, about three-quarters of its intake of grain. The bulk of this is shipped from the American east coast by way of the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal.

In Washington, Indian officials revealed that 500,000 tons of grain was at present on the high seas bound for India, most of it between United States east coast ports and Suez.

Pacific route

Discussions were under way about re-routing shipments round Africa and bringing further supplies across the Pacific.

The British Chamber of Shipping said yesterday that a ship doing 14 knots would take about a fortnight longer to get to India from the Atlantic way of the Cape of Good Hope than through the Suez Canal.

In the Indian state of Bihar alone, said one Indian source, no fewer than 30m. people—more than half the state's population—were affected by famine and depended on central government handouts of 200,000 tons of grain and rice a month to survive.

With the closure of the Suez Canal, it is now almost inevitable that there will be a fortnight's hiatus in the main grain supply to India, which has been feeding her hungry millions on a hand-to-mouth basis for months.

A British shipping expert said that this could be disastrous, as India had received from the United States last month only some 300,000 tons of grain, instead of the 1m. tons which had been set as the monthly average. In his view, this was the most serious effect of the closure.

For Egypt herself, the loss occasioned by her own action is not inconsiderable—£1,500,000 a week in lost revenues, enough to keep a sizable war going, and a staggering cut in income for a country at Egypt's stage of development, even in peacetime.



Union Castle's Argyllshire: Diverted via the Cape.

About 50 ships a day pass through the canal—one in five of them British. Last year, the canal handled 274m. tons of shipping (110m. in ballast, 164m. in loaded ships). In terms of tonnage the British share of canal traffic is 16.6 per cent.

For Britain the closure means delays for a wide range of import and export shipments and higher shipping costs as vessels plying between British ports and the Far East and East Africa are forced to take the long way round the Cape. South Africa is feverishly planning to cope with the large tonnage of shipping expected to put in at her ports.

A ship doing 16 knots from London through the canal to Basra, in Iraq, takes 17 days five hours for the 6,625-mile journey; by way of the Cape the journey is 11,369 miles and lasts 12 days 12 hours longer.

A ship from London to Hongkong (9,723 miles through Suez), doing 15 knots, takes 26 days 23 hours normally; now it would need 36 days nine hours for a journey increased to 13,057 miles. Some of the world's fastest cargo ships ply this route at speeds of about 27 knots. Even these will need 20 days instead of 15 for the journey. Voyages to Australia and New Zealand are not affected by more than 8 per cent in terms of time.

After the advice of Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, to shipping lines on Monday, British ships were keeping clear of the canal yesterday.

Reports last night, however, suggested that a ship belonging to the Strick Line, which specializes in the Persian Gulf run, was in the canal when President Nasser issued the order to clear it. The line had heard nothing from her master and refused to give the ship's name. A telex message from an Egyptian agent said the ship had reached the canal.

Two P. & O. liners, the Canberra (45,000 tons) and the Cathay (14,000 tons) were diverted round the Cape. The Canberra, with 2,050 passengers, is on her way to Australia and was north of the canal when she turned back to Gibraltar to take the Cape route. The Cathay, a passenger-cargo ship returning from Japan, was between Colombo and Aden when she diverted to the Cape.

Tankers caught

The Mobil tanker D'Artagnan (31,235 tons) was about to enter the canal from the Red Sea when she was told to stop and await further orders. Two Niarchos tankers, the World Inheritance and the World Intelligence (both 24,800 tons), were caught with the D'Artagnan and received orders to turn round and make for the Cape.

For Britain the closure means western countries were told to make for one of three rallying points to await orders. For those north and west of Suez—Gibraltar; for those south and east—Aden or Durban.

The British and Commonwealth Shipping Company's refrigerated ship Argyllshire (9,300 tons), sailing from Australia to Britain, will take the Cape route.

Six BP crude oil carriers in the Red Sea were ordered to come to Europe by way of the Cape. A similar number of southbound ships of BP's fleet were ordered to turn round, steam slowly westwards, and await new instructions. Shell has ordered all its tankers to re-route.

The Australian homeward freight conference, representing most shipping lines in the Australian trade, has issued a statement withdrawing its obligation to maintain services to the Middle East and its re-routing its ships by way of the Panama Canal or Cape Town.

Last night came an announcement that war risk insurance had been withdrawn from ships heading for ports in Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and the Gulf of Aqaba. A circular from the British Chamber of Shipping warned all its members that it was "inadvisable" to make for these ports.

The takeover in Jerusalem as seen by The Times correspondent Nicholas Herbert.
ISRAEL-OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 07, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56961.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS167996615

ISRAEL AND JORDAN

One of the things which make the fighting now quite different from 1956 is the involvement of Jordan. Probably Israel hoped that once again Jordan would remain more or less inactive while Egypt was knocked out in a separate battle, but not surprisingly this has not happened. It would have been impossible for KING HUSAIN to have kept his forces idle. They too have had plans to be put into operation at a favourable opportunity. Two promising lines of offensive action were open to them—cutting Israel's narrow waist near Tulkaram, and nipping off the Jerusalem salient. There has been fighting in both areas, and Jordan seems to have decidedly got the worst of it.

If Jordan's forces are thrown back, what then? Most Israelis probably think that the River Jordan is a tidier and stronger frontier for them, and some of them have openly claimed it—including Herut, the party whose founder, MENACHEM BEGIN, is now in the Cabinet. But should Israeli troops reach the river two problems would confront them, and the world. The first is the simple one of legality. It is difficult to imagine Israelis being allowed to hang on to their conquest. They were, quite rightly, made to disgorge Sinai in 1956. They would have to be made to disgorge the west bank if they swallow it now. If Israel is to survive as a state it may need more rational frontiers—which could mean giving as well as taking. But conquest is not internationally accepted as the way of changing frontiers, even if it was conquest which gave Israel its present frontiers twenty years ago.

The other problem is the people who live in Jordan's west bank. There are nearly a million of them—all Arabs, of course. If Israel tried to absorb them it would make the state a wholly binational one. At present Israel has two million Jews and a quarter of a million Arabs. If the proportion became about two to one, Israel would obviously not be the country " as Jewish as Britain is British " its founders meant it to be.

The alternative would be to drive the west bank Arabs across the Jordan, leaving them to be looked after by the rest of the Arab states and the U.N. That would be a brutal and cynical act. There are still a million refugees from the first exodus. Blaming the other Arabs for not resettling them does nothing to relieve their misery. They are still on Israel's conscience and their number must not be added to.

It may be that the Israelis aim just at inflicting a defeat on Jordan and making some minor frontier changes to their own advantage. But this again is something which cannot be left to Israel alone to settle. Besides, there is always the particular question of Jerusalem. Israel claims that the U.N. resolution calling for the city to be international is a dead letter. But the Old City of Jerusalem in Israeli hands would be a standing call for Arab revenge.

Israel And Jordan.
The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 07, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56961.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS184904903

OIL AND THE WAR

Middle East oil has always had imperialist-nationalist overtones. In the present conflict the Arabs represent Israel as an imperialist tool. It is a logical extension of this allegation for Egypt and her allies to try to interrupt the flow of oil to the west.

In fact the international movement of oil is now so complex that it would be extremely difficult for the Arab nations to cut the amount of oil reaching Britain, or other countries, to any really serious extent unless they were willing to impose upon themselves an almost total ban on exports. Kuwait and Algeria have refused to allow tankers destined for Britain or the United States to be loaded; but cargoes from these ports can easily be exported elsewhere and supplies brought in to America or the United Kingdom from third countries. Iraq has imposed a ban on American and British ships; but ample tankers flying other flags are available to carry crude to Britain and the United States. The Suez Canal and the Syria pipeline have been blocked: these routes, however, even taken together, are of minor importance in these days of super tankers which regularly, and for choice, go round the Cape.

It would certainly be a serious matter for Britain if all Middle East oil supplies were to be banned—and especially if, in addition, physical damage were done to pipelines and other installations. This could happen if Israel puts her enemies to total rout, and the Arab governments become unable to keep their outraged populace in check. Present circumstances have not reached this point: if it were reached, private motorists would have to be rationed, and some restraint might even have to be imposed on industry and commerce.

Iran, which is not an Arab country, seems likely in a discreet way to use this situation as an opportunity to increase her own exports at the expense of her neighbours. Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, apart from Iraq and Kuwait, seem to have maintained a normal oil export policy for the present, though it is not to be relied on. So has Libya. Moreover, it is particularly significant that, although Kuwait is refusing to load cargoes bound for American or British ports, her Government has also surrounded all oil installations with troops precisely to make sure that these facilities are not destroyed by mob action. These—for the present—are hopeful signs.

The international oil structure has changed radically in the past ten years. No close parallel can be drawn between the situation now and as it was in 1956 at the time of the Suez crisis. The oil aspect of the Middle East war may not yet pose an extra critical threat of the first magnitude on its own account. However, if the Arabs become desperate in defeat the position could still worsen seriously. How seriously will depend on the result of the war itself.

Oil And The War.
The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 07, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56961.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

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Nasser fights to save position built on Arab hopes

By Tom Little

When I began a tour of the Middle East several weeks ago the area was torn by political dissensions more acute than any I had experienced there in 25 years, and the reputation of President Nasser was at its lowest ebb. Before I flew back to London last weekend his most bitter enemies were fulsome in his praise and the common people spoke of him as they would of a god.

The transformation occurred overnight with his declaration closing the Strait of Tiran to Israel-bound ships and as passing days brought the realization that this might precipitate the long-awaited war to defeat Israel excitement became intense. The people argued that he would not have risked the military challenge of Israel unless he were convinced that this time he could win. Only the most hard-headed paused to ask whether his calculations were correct.

By comparison with the excitement outside Egypt, the statements of President Nasser himself were relatively cautious, but caution was discounted as an essential political gambit. The Arabs were convinced that more was intended so that even a pacific victory which left him in control of the strait would have seemed a let-down.

DRIVEN BY EVENTS

President Nasser was driven into this exposed position by events that began with the Israeli attack on Samu on November 13 last year. (I leave aside the intricate pattern of events stretching backwards to the Balfour Declaration in favour of the immediate situation.) That attack caused bitter recriminations between Jordan on the one side and Egypt and Israel on the other, during which the Jordan delegates taunted the Egyptian delegates that their country was sheltering behind the United Nations Emergency Force whereas Jordan was fully exposed.

The Egyptian delegates replied privately that they would order the withdrawal of U.N.E.F. when the time was opportune. Trouble then slipped back to Syria which allowed guerrillas to raid Israel and Israel replied with a severe air raid on Syria in April. President Nasser was widely criticized for failing to help his ally, with whom he had a defence agreement. When a statement by Mr. Eshkol, the Israel Prime Minister, seemed to confirm the Arab belief that Israel was marshalling troops for an attack on Syria, President Nasser was compelled to take action. The Israeli policy of replying in strength to minor offences against her was therefore a primary cause of the situation.

President Nasser's action was directed against the point where he could argue the greatest right, for the Strait of Tiran was opened by force and might reasonably be closed by *force majeure*. Further, the Israeli port of Eilat, whose existence raises the question of international rights, was an Arab village seized after the armistice agreements. Nevertheless Nasser must have known that the rights he claimed could have no meaning for Israel, which would be bound to seek to reopen the strait by force if the powers failed to do it by diplomacy. He must therefore have presumed that he could win.

The political circumstances in the Arab world were adverse, for he was in open, wordy conflict with Saudi Arabia and Jordan and relations with Syria, however cordial on the surface, were at best luke warm. He counted on the fact that the Palestine question overcomes all dissensions, and it was quickly apparent that popular support for his action was so strong that no government dared stand back from his commitment.

King Husain quickly settled all doubts by his spectacular flight to Cairo, and this was militarily important because the small but efficient Jordan Army was his best support in the early stages of any war. The Syrian Army was enthusiastic and patriotic but its leadership had been decimated over several years by political upheavals. And the Iraqi Army, though possibly second only to Egypt's in strength, was 500 miles away across the desert. About 40,000 Egyptian troops were still in Yemen, but I think it was Nasser's spokesman, Muhammad Hassanein Heykal, who said that the Armed Forces had been strengthened until the part in Egypt was as strong as the entire Army had been in 1962 when the Yemen war began.

Whatever President Nasser's calculations, they seem to have been proved false by the course of the war in the first 36 hours. The Israeli Army is reported to be in Old Jerusalem and to have reached the sea at El Arish on the Sinai coast, cutting the supply line to the Egyptian troops in Gaza. The Israeli claims of air successes are almost certainly exaggerated, for they mean that Israel destroyed on the ground in one day more than the Anglo-French air forces destroyed in four days in 1956, when there was virtually no opposition. They would mean that the Arab states had left among them only 200 aircraft of mixed quality, and that the air war was over already.

GAZA INDEFENSIBLE

The Gaza strip is about 20 miles long and six miles wide, and is held against the sea by Israel. It is regarded as indefensible, and Egyptian military thinking has always considered that it should, if necessary, be sacrificed. It does not therefore follow that the Israeli successes on the northern Sinai coast are as crucial as they first appear.

If the main Egyptian forces have been held back on the coast and at Al-Ageila, the junction on the secondary road leading to the Israeli border in the northern Negev by which the front might be turned, the main battle in Egypt has yet to begin. But this must become apparent very soon, for the troops in the Gaza pocket cannot hold out without supplies for long.

The news from the Jordan front is more disturbing for the Arabs. Its rough terrain is not good for quick, aggressive action from the Arab side but a powerful thrust down the road through Latrun towards Tel Aviv would clearly give Israel pause for military thought. Jordan, however, is weak in the air, since its Hunters are no match for the Israelis' Mystères, and there is no evidence yet that Syrian MiG 21s have come to her aid.

The objectives of the Arabs were described differently in different countries, varying from the destruction of Israel as a state to simply holding the Strait of Tiran. Perhaps President Nasser put the position most clearly to the members of his National Assembly when he said that he had gone back to the position in 1956 (by closing the strait) and, "God willing", would go back to the position of 1948. One must conclude that he intended to return if possible to the partition plan by military action if the Israelis attacked. It was certainly a widely held view in the Arab world that he would at least regain the land bridge across the Negev to Jordan, and Palestinians of "revolutionary" persuasion held that he would then make a Palestine state consisting of the West Bank of the Jordan and the Negev.

LOOKING TO RUSSIA

None of these objectives was in mind when President Nasser closed the Strait of Tiran, but grew with the widening conviction that victory could be achieved. There had been deepening pessimism among most intelligent Arabs, including many Palestinians, who had come to believe that there was no hope of regaining even part of Palestine, and neither in governments nor people was there any thought that a new war for Palestine was about to begin. Objectives were engendered by emotions fired by hope.

Such is the strength of feeling about Palestine that even arch-conservatives who hated the very thought of Russia began to see in Russia their hope of victory. "Kosygin will not let Nasser down", they said. "You pro-Israeli western countries are neutralized by Soviet power." If the original optimism has been tarnished by news from the fronts, there will be many still looking to Russia to save them.

There could be no clearer example of the disastrous effect that the creation of Israel has had on British and American policy in the Middle East than the fact that even conservatives will readily turn to Russia to defeat Israel. Only people who know the area will understand the deep sense of hurt and shame which almost every Arab feels, will understand that even the most modest and reasonable statements made in the West appear inimical to the Arabs.

If now the Arabs are defeated, the disillusionment and bitterness will be intense and it will be inevitable that Britain and the United States will be blamed. The *canard* that they provided air cover for Israeli forces will not die easily. But equally, it will be very difficult for President Nasser's reputation to survive the failure, for his *baraka* (meaning the possession of God's blessing, leadership and a measure of luck thrown in) will be lost by an enterprise into which the Arab people followed him with bright-eyed hope.

Nasser fights to save position built on Arab hopes.
By Tom Little

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 07, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56961.

Category: News

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Problems ahead—but business plays a waiting game

Kuwait—tiny oil state with a big financial stick

Kuwait is one of the largest single depositors of sterling and, as such, her actions could have a marked effect on the Pound. Here Our Special Correspondent gives an account of the background to Kuwait's financial structure and policy.

Kuwait with a population of 490,000, about the size of Sheffield, is one of Britain's larger sterling depositors—if not the largest. The total investment of Kuwait's Government and private sectors is about £1,000m. (*see Table* 1)—equivalent to about 2 per cent of Britain's gross national product. This is what worries people in Britain.

Officials still frequently say that Kuwait could send a shockwave through the British economy. It is easy to say this when so little is known about the investors, their strategy and the effect of a quick capital flight on our economy. But exactly where does the £1,000m. come from ?

Of the total, their Government and quasi-government institutions, e.g. Currency Board, hold £359m. in London—37 per cent of all Kuwaiti investment in Britain. This is an accurate estimate. In the private sector the four commercial banks—one British and three Kuwaiti—hold a minimum of £190m. Or to put it another way, this is about 70 per cent of their total foreign assets (*see Table* 2). But the largest chunk of all £430m.—45 per cent of the total—is held by private investors.

If anything, this estimate is the minimum; private investors could hold as much as £750m. So much depends on the assumptions made about the distribution of the oil wealth, the cumulative total of which is now £2,300m.

But one factor is very certain; 18 Kuwaiti families own 90 per cent of private foreign investment. And their influence extends even further, for most of them have relatives who work in the Government or are on the boards of directors of Kuwaiti financial or commercial institutions. Directly or indirectly this small group influences the total government and private foreign investment (including grants and loans) which amounts to £1,700m., of which 55 per cent is held in Britain.

The investment strategy of the two main sectors naturally varies. They have different objectives. "Our aim", said the Director of the Reserve, Revenue and Investment Department, "when investing the revenue-yielding assets of our international reserves is to optimise the yield, without having much tied up in long-term holdings. And of course we look for stability."

There is also a political motive. At least £47m. is deposited at low interest rates in banks in Egypt, Algeria and Iraq to buttress good relations; this is in addition to the other government grants and loans. (*See Table* 2). That is why the Prime Minister takes a personal interest in the investment strategy. He, the Minister of Finance, the under Secretary, the Assistant Under Secretary and the Director do the planning.

In principle, they keep a proportion —£69m.—deposited in foreign banks of Egypt, Algeria, Iraq, United States, Japan, Germany and Britain; with £15m. held in London which is used as a form of reserve. They usually split the bond and equity holdings between sterling and dollars on a 3 to 1 ratio, keeping the whole of their "special accounts" in sterling. But these ratios are not fixed.

They also decide the bond/equity split which used to be 60/40 but which is now nearer 50/50; a high proportion of the bonds are short to medium term. Now they are looking for opportunities to diversify even further. This investment strategy is communicated to both London and New York.

A senior official said: "During 1966, the average yield from our sterling assets was never lower than 7 per cent, while the yield of the dollar holdings was averaging 3 per cent. Over the year the total revenue from the Government's international reserves was £26m."

In the private sector the banks, with a substantial portion of their foreign currency in sterling current assets and short and long-term deposits, did not do so badly either. But little is known about the performance of the other private foreign investment.

KUWAIT'S ESTIMATED MINIMUM TOTAL STERLING INVESTMENT

(millions of sterling)

—	March 31, 1965	March 31, 1966	March 31, 1967
1. **Government's International Reserves:**			
General Reserve Fund	140	120	95
Special Accounts:			
Accelerated tax payments ..	52	106	166
Accrued investment income ..	5	23	50
SUB TOTAL	197	249	311
2. **Special Categories (Quasi-Government):—***			
Currency board	10	15	20
Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development	27	30	28
SUB TOTAL	37	45	48
3. **Private Sector**			
Four commercial banks	140	150	190
Private investors	320	340	430
SUB TOTAL	460	490	620
GRAND TOTAL ..	694	824	979

* Figures for Kuwait Investment Companies excluded. Date May 1, 1967.

Banks keep calm front

So long as fighting in the Middle East is confined to the desert areas the banking communities, both British-owned and otherwise, in the countries concerned phlegmatically insist that day-to-day operations will not be affected and that business will be very much as usual.

Nor was there any great concern among the banks which have British staffs working in or near the area of hostilities, since wives and children have long since been repatriated. It is felt that whatever might be the outcome of the struggle, the interests of all British subjects will be safeguarded.

Similarly, there has been no transfer of funds to other countries, so far as is known, by the banks themselves, though it is likely that individuals may have moved their own.

Behind the calm front however, it is clear that certain banks stand to be hit hard if hostilities continue. Barclays DCO, the largest British bank in the Middle East, runs 32 branches in Israel and 14 in Libya and though the Israel assets alone represent a relatively small percentage of the total the business is regarded as an important part of the organization. The British Bank of the Middle East likewise has a wide spread of interests but the two branches in Jordan are the only ones in the immediate danger area. Assets there are small and very few British personnel are involved.

Kuwait-tiny oil state with a big financial stick.
The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 07, 1967; pg. 26; Issue 56961.

Category: Business and Finance

Gale Document Number:CS436432071

Any crisis in the Middle East can only increase the threat to the western oil companies from nationally owned competition. An American oil economist, Thomas Stauffer, argues that, short of outright nationalization, the growth in the "nationals'" power is potentially one of the most disruptive influences they have to face

Oil nationals: the spectre haunting the industry

The flirtations in recent weeks between E.N.I., the Italian State petroleum company, and Iraqi authorities over a possible cooperative development of some of the oil properties sequestered from the Iraq Petroleum Company have once again raised a spectre which haunts the world petroleum industry.

The concept that State-owned oil companies ought to confront one another directly, specifically to the exclusion of the existing private companies, is advanced perennially by nationalists. In the case of the North Rumallah fields in Iraq this flanking movement is especially unpalatable to the international companies because two State organizations, representing a consuming and a producing country, are meeting to discuss the exploitation of reserves which I.P.C. believes were wrested from it in an unwarranted spasm of sovereignty.

Quite aside from the disputed concessionary claim in this particular case, the growing activity of State-owned companies is symptomatic of new realignments in the international petroleum industry which threaten a much greater disruption than that caused by the earlier wave of newcomers and upstarts—the American "independents" who elbowed their way into the foyer of the club in the late 1950s.

The independents, a score or so of junior enterprises each with assets under £300m. were lured across the waters by the myth of super profits and buttressed by favourable United States tax clauses. These were integrated into the world picture without undue bloodshed. The burgeoning national petroleum companies, however, were spawned in entirely different circumstances and respond to entirely different stimuli. Any accommodation will be more difficult and must be arrived at through different terms.

The national companies come in various shapes and sizes, and with diverse genealogies. In the consuming countries, at least, their forerunners emerged from the xenophobic desire that national resources be developed by national capital and national enterprise, as in Italy with E.N.I. or in France with the Société Aquitaine. Where those countries have since become heavily dependent upon imported hydrocarbons, national companies are used as instruments to increase the domestic currency component of petroleum imports, and thus to minimize the foreign exchange drain.

"Flag oil" is correlated with "flag equipment", and it is indicative that Aramco uses Kenilworth diesels and BP prefers Commers or Thames lorries, while the French operations in Algeria employ Berliet camions.

For those countries which put a premium on foreign exchange over and above the official parity rate—i.e., where the Government may be willing to trade off one franc or one lira's worth of *domestic resources* against a nominally lesser amount of foreign resources—tied deals are especially advantageous, whether they be in the form of bilateral trade for crude supplies or complex hardware contracts for refineries. In the case of Italy or France, for example, the devaluation implicit in such *quid pro quo* negotiations may be as high as 20 per cent.

The rationale behind national oil companies, however, whether in producer countries such as Iran and Venezuela or in consuming countries such as India, France or Spain, is rarely purely economic. At all levels the dominant theme is a heady mixture of national pride and an underlying distrust, if not virulent hatred, of the *gringo*, the *ferengi*, or the Anglo-Saxon. Consuming and producing countries are willing to take considerable risks, and have on occasion incurred substantial losses in pursuit of the national image or in order to reduce their dependence upon *ci-devant* colonialists for petroleum products.

For better or for worse, a national oil company is viewed as another of the tangible adjuncts of independence, and it ranks with a nuclear reactor, a flag airline, or posh embassies. It embodies the whole range of national aspirations. Thus national reactions become inextricably linked with national prestige, and this renders them less sensitive to questions of cost or economic benefit. Oil operations take on a tenacity quite unthinkable to any ordinary commercial undertaking.

Subordinate to the psychological motivations embodied in the national companies, especially in the producing countries, there can none the less be found a number of quite genuine economic justifications. Even a country which is otherwise both poor in human resources and overly dependent upon a single product—its oil—might rationally enter one of the world's most complex and most capital-intensive industries and commit even more of its few eggs to the same basket. Foremost is the possibility of buying experience and of evolving indigenous expertise in an area which is of overwhelming national concern, but from which host country nationals have thus far been effectively excluded.

It is universally believed that foreign companies have never been entirely candid *vis-á-vis* their host governments, and local participation on the boards of the operating companies such as Kuwait Oil Company or Aramco has fallen short of tokenism. The significant decisions must be made at the level of the parent corporations, either in London or New York. No local representative, except in the case of Creole in Venezuela, is privy to high-level policy, let alone party to its determination.

The existing arrangements accordingly provide no indoctrination into the lore of the trade, although all host Governments quite plausibly insist that they must better understand the forces which influence their financial destiny. Therefore, even by the most ruthless assessment of benefits, this sort of practical knowledge may indeed best be obtained through the medium of a national company.

It is also argued that national companies will produce real, demonstrable financial benefits for their countries and contribute solidly to economic development. This conviction rests in part upon the Pollyanish estimation that investment in Middle Eastern oil operations produces annual returns of 60 per cent or more on capital. The projections of the technocrats are more sober, and are based at least tenuously upon the realizable prices for crude, or the products in the prevailing world market.

Nonetheless, Kuwaiti National Petroleum, for example, originally predicted that it would earn some 40 per cent on its equity capital in its Shuaiba refinery. This calculation has since been revised drastically downward—but only after construction had been committed.



A night view of Kuwait oil refinery at Mina al Ahmadi.

It is, however, a foregone conclusion that all of the larger national companies will show a book-keeping profit. No government can dare admit to having conceived an egregious *white elephant*. A wide spectrum of fiscal devices is available which will ensure public profitability, even though these pseudo-profits can be achieved only at the expense of the general revenues of the state.

In the case of the National Iranian Oil Company, for example, part of the cash flow arising from its domestic marketing monopoly is in effect a relinquishment of excise taxes. Petromin in Saudi Arabia will probably follow this model in the near future. Similarly, E.N.I.'s accouchement would have been unthinkable without its exclusive rights to the Po gasfields.

Elsewhere, as in France, substantial implicit subsidies are available in the guise of low-interest capital advances at rates well below the market price for equity capital. Alternatively, Kuwaiti National Petroleum has been assured a rebate of 80 per cent of the Government revenue on each barrel of products which it can dispose of in a new market. One or more of such implicit subsidies—cheap capital, risk underwriting, tax remissions, cost-free facilities, or preferential purchases—will ensure notional accounting profits.

Whether national companies genuinely benefit their countries economicaly hinges upon what domestic alternatives exist which might represent more profitable utilization of capital and foreign exchange. This is quite aside from questions of over-concentration in oil. In Kuwait, where both the public and the Treasury invest abroad at prevailing bank rates of 5 to 7 per cent, petroleum operations which promise 12 to 15 per cent, the world-wide average return, are attractive by comparison. Conversely, in Brazil, Venezuela, Iraq and Iran, opportunities exist in other sectors of the economy which could yield much more than 12 per cent and provide at the same time much greater utilization of domestic resources.

The question of "alternative investments" is indeed the crux of any determination of the national advantage to be had from national companies, because one of the alternatives to be considered must be that of a conventional concession or taxing private companies. The primary measure of the economic profitability of a national enterprise is the revenue which could be collected from an outsider who would provide all of the requisite capital; this is the acid test.

In the recent deal between France and Iran, it appears that Iran forfeits between 10 and 40 per cent of the potential income by electing to retain E.R.A.P. as "contractor", because Iran must furnish all but the initial capital and repay the French at an accelerated rate. Only in the event of a bonanza discovery with a cost pattern like Kuwait might such a joint venture prove financially more advantageous than the old-fashioned deal.

There is, however, one extremely important set of circumstances in which the economic benefits from a national company or a joint operation become incontestable. If a conventional bid is not to be had, or if existing concessionaires will not increase production sufficiently fast, then any increased production or throughput from a national company's operations is pure gravy as long as it covers cash costs. In such a case the alternative is zero, and success is guaranteed.

The real market price of Middle Eastern crude oil consists of 25 per cent real cost and 65 per cent or more in host country tax take, so that a small sacrifice in tax revenue per barrel could make "national" oil fiercely competitive and yet provide handsome extra income to the country as long as each such barrel could not have been produced as fully taxed oil. Since tax discounting is a "beggar-thy-neighbour" policy, national companies or joint venture/participation agreements provide the best camouflage for efforts to increase a country's marginal offtake.

Egypt, unabashed, has indicated its position, whereas Iran and Saudi Arabia disguise their discounts in complex financial clauses. These amount to some 20 cents per barrel, or 25 per cent. In the short run any single country can profit from discounting through increased output; in the longer run, as other producers retaliate, each tax-discounted barrel, on the average, ultimately displaces one barrel of fully taxed crude, and each country incurs a net loss.

In the short run, therefore, two forces will accelerate the entry of national companies into world competition to the detriment of the private petroleum companies. On one hand, the extra net revenue promised by tax discounts on marginal offtake is irresistible. On the other hand, the managers of the national companies can pursue a policy of institutional aggrandisement and their institutional ambitions, protected by a variety of subsidies, without particular regard for the national interest and unobstructed by real profit considerations.

In the short run, then, national companies can undercut private firms with impunity, and the resultant erosion of crude and product prices may be expected to undermine the profitability of fully integrated companies. This assault will be much more costly than that of the independents, since there are no economic constraints. However, in the longer run, the "national" ministries of finance will come to demand an accounting on the national balance and thus curb this "safe" subsidised competitive zeal. Already, both in Iran and in Kuwait, officials note these trends with acute concern.

The international companies, majors and minors, will be severely challenged for some years until these non-economic interlopers are stabilized; their sole consolation is that finance ministries or national companies who have learned the ropes the hard way will ultimately be more knowledgeable and hence more reasonable across the negotiating table.

In the meantime, the private companies will certainly be squeezed, most national companies will produce real economic losses, and during the years until an economic rapprochement is reached the only winners will be the independent refiners and marketers or those underdeveloped countries who can avail themselves of bargain oil products.

Oil nationals: the spectre haunting the industry.
The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 07, 1967; pg. 27; Issue 56961.

Category: Business and Finance

Gale Document Number:CS453471431

Oil news hits sterling

The noon news yesterday that Egypt had closed the Suez Canal saw sterling marked down to $2.79 against the United States dollar. But selling pressure was not great, since many banks were abstaining.

The pound opened at just under $2.79⅛. After slipping to the round figure it recovered to the opening price, but later slipped again to finish at $2.79 1-16.

Support was given at the spot position, although perhaps more widely than on Monday. There was also support in the forward positions, with outright selling of dollars at the three-month and one-year positions. Interventions appeared to be on a smaller scale than on Monday, however—perhaps in the region of $75m.

Forward discounts closed at 3/16c. at the one-month position, the three-month finishing at ⅛c., the six-month at ⅞c. and the one-year at 1 13/16c.

Place	Market rates (day's range) June 6	Market rates (close) June 6
New York	2.78^{15}_{16}-79^{3}_{16}	$2.79-79⅛
Montreal ..	3.01^{7}_{16}-01^{11}_{16}	3.011_2-015_8
Amsterdam	10.033₄-051₄fl.	10.04⅝-047⅛fl.
Brussels ..	138.40-55f.	138.42-47f.
Copenhagen	19.333₄-35k.	19.341₂-343₄k.
Frankfurt	11.091₂-11m.	11.101₂-103₄m.
Lisbon ..	80.00-30e.	80.15-25e.
Milan ..	1,742³₄-44¹₂lr.	1,743⅝-44⅛lr.
Oslo ..	19.93-94¹₂k.	19.93⅜-93⅝k.
Paris ..	13.67¹₂-69¼f.	13.68⅝-68⅞f.
Stockholm	14.331₂-36¼k.	14.34⅛-34⅜k.
Vienna ..	72.04-13sch.	72.06-09sch.
Zurich ..	12.033₄-043₄f.	12.041₄-041₂f.

(Bank of England official limit for U.S. dollars $2.78-82.)

CLOSING FORWARD RATES

—	One Month	Three Months
New York..	¼-⅛c. prem.	$^{7}_{16}$-$^{5}_{16}$c. prem.
Montreal ..	$^{3}_{16}$-$^{1}_{16}$c. prem.	$^{5}_{16}$-$^{3}_{16}$c. prem.
Amsterdam	1-1₃₂c. prem.	2-1₁₆c. prem.
Brussels ..	7-2c. prem.	15-10c. prem.
Copenhagen	¼-1¼ö. disc.	¼-1¼ö. disc.
Frankfurt ..	2-1¹₂pf. prem.	5-4¹₂pf. prem.
Lisbon ..	15c. prem.-10c. disc.	15c. prem.-10c. disc.
Milan ..	2³₄-1³₄lr. prem.	6¼-5¼lr. prem.
Oslo ..	1¼-¼ö. prem.	1¼-¼ö. prem.
Paris ..	⅞-1⅜c. prem.	3⅞-3⅜c. prem.
Stockholm	1¼-1¾ö. disc.	1¼-1¾ö. disc.
Vienna ..	15-5gro. prem.	22-12gro. prem.
Zurich ..	1³₄-1¼c. prem.	3¹₂-3c. prem.

OTHER MARKET RATES.—India (per 100 rupees), £4.738 to £4.766; Pakistan, 1s. 5$^{15}_{16}$d. to 1s. 6$^{1}_{16}$d.; Ceylon, 1s. 5$^{31}_{32}$d. to 1s. 6$^{3}_{32}$d.; Singapore, 2s. 3$^{29}_{32}$d. to 2s. 4$^{1}_{32}$d.; Hongkong, 1s. 2⅞d. to 1s. 3d.; Argentina, 975 to 978 pesos; Japan, 1.012¹₂ to 1.013¹₂ yen; Netherlands Antilles, 5.21 to 5.31fl.; Spain, 167³₄ to 168 pesetas; Canadian dollar on New York, $0.9253 to $0.9255.

Euro dollar on London: Calls, 4¹₂—5; seven days, 4⅝—5⅛; one month, 4⅞—5⅜; three months, 5¼—5¾.

Euro Sterling on Paris: Two days, 5¹₂—6; one month, 5¾—6¼; three months, 5¾—6¼.

At the London fixing the gold price was raised another ½d. to 252s. 2d. on a dollar parity unchanged at $35.19⅛. Demand was again very good, although below Monday's level. Inquiry, which came mainly from the Continent with other quarters showing smaller interest, was fully met. The market remained active during the day. Closing range was $35.19 to $35.21.

Silver was fixed in London at 150d. spot and at 152d. forward, a new high, achieved on speculative interest apparently inspired to some extent by the Middle East situation.

Oil news hits sterling.
The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 07, 1967; pg. 28; Issue 56961.

Category: Business and Finance

Gale Document Number:CS470510791

ISRAEL OFFERS ARABS CEASE-FIRE

TANKS WITHIN SIGHT OF CANAL

Surrender in Gaza Strip

Israel today announced its consent to a cease-fire in the war with the Arab states if the other countries concerned also agreed. The official announcement said that the Israel Government " decided to authorize Mr. Abba Eban, the Foreign Minister, to notify the United Nations Security Council of the consent of the Israel Government to cease fire if the other countries concerned should also announce their agreement to cease fire ".



In Jerusalem yesterday : an Israel tank on station at a cross-roads in the former Jordan sector.

The communiqué said that the Defence Minister and the Chief of Staff had reported on the military situation and " declared that the Israel defence forces had attained their objectives in reaching the hills of Hebron and the Jordan river. They are now in control of the Sinai peninsula as well ".

The Egyptian commander of the Gaza Strip yesterday formally surrendered to the Israel forces. Israel reopened the way through the Gulf of Aqaba by taking Sharm el Sheikh, and her tanks were within 10 miles of the Suez Canal. The Old City of Jerusalem was taken.

Major-General Moshe Dayan, the Defence Minister, said at a press conference in Tel Aviv that Israel could easily have reached the Suez Canal already, but this was not a war objective.

Major-General Yitzhak Rabin, the Israel Chief of Staff, said that the Egyptians were trying to withdraw behind the canal zone " but fighting is continuing ". A large part of Jordan—including the city of Jericho—had been captured. Most of the Jordan Army and an Iraq brigade had been taken prisoner.

BLOW AT SYRIA NOW

From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME, Tel Aviv, June 7

With astonishing speed today the Israel forces gained a series of objectives which make their victory over Egypt and Jordan absolutely conclusive.

The south end of the Sinai peninsula at Sharm el Sheikh is now in Israel's hands Israel thus again controls the land overlooking the Strait of Tiran.

By all calculations the Suez Canal should have been reached in two points by nightfall.

Widespread advances into Jordan have gained Israel the possession of the watershed line of hills stretching from Jenin, in the north, in a line southwards to Jerusalem.

Finally, the Old City of Jerusalem, already surrounded, was entered by Israel troops.

Withdrawal attempt

General Rabin, the Chief of Staff, said tonight that Israel forces had reached Romani, about 30 miles from Port Said, and, in the south, had reached the Mitla pass, less than 30 miles from Port Toufiq. The Egyptians were trying to withdraw behind the Canal zone.

He said that practically all Jordan's western bank was now in Israel hands, including Jericho and Bethlehem.

He gave his version of the start of fighting on Monday. "The Egyptians were making preparations by ranging their artillery and moving armour nearer the border and other preparations. On Monday they began to move on the ground and near us in the air. We had to defend ourselves and could not afford to have our air force being bombed."

Army service

Referring to the strong Israel counter-attack against Jordan, he said: " There was a bulge with a hostile army under Egyptian command and we had to defend ourselves."

The tally of aircraft destroyed today rose to a total of 441, according to the Chief of the Air Staff. " We have almost destroyed totally the air forces of four countries, and all this in 60 hours ", he said.

Israelis tonight are jubilant. The campaign has exceeded their wildest expectations. The most spectacular victory is the capture of the Old City of Jerusalem. The Army conducted the first service at the Wailing Wall this afternoon and that, more than anything, strikes a response with Israelis.

Vast quantities of discarded weapons apparently litter Sinai and will be destroyed. It is expected here that Israel will finally turn fuller attention to Syria now that the pressure on the other two fronts has eased.

The Syrians continued their heavy bombardment of Israel settlements today, which was not wholly silenced by Israel aerial counter-attacks. The Syrian and Jordan forces have actually given the Israel forces hard times but the complete disintegration of Egypt's armed forces has taken even Israel by surprise.

The air strike

A few details of Israel's astonishingly successful first air strike on Monday became available today. In the first wave about 16 Egyptian airfields were put out of action, extending as far as Luxor and the Red Sea coast.

Cairo international airport and El Mansura were in the second wave, when it was discovered that fighters were dispersed there.

The Israel aircraft worked nonstop on the first day, with some pilots flying as many as eight sorties. El Arish airfield was left untouched so that it might be used later on as an air transport base for the Army. This is happening now.

The accuracy of the Israel bombing of runways was achieved by a special bomb. Its accuracy allowed the aircraft to carry lighter loads, which accounts for the great ranges over which they attacked.



General Moshe Dayan with his military aides at the Wailing Wall after a tour of the Old City of Jerusalem yesterday.

'We stay in Jerusalem' –Dayan

JERUSALEM, June 7.—General Moshe Dayan, the Israel Defence Minister, stood today in the shadow of the Wailing Wall in the newly occupied Old City of Jerusalem and told a party of troops: " The Israel defence forces today liberated Jerusalem. We have reunited the torn city, capital of Israel.

" We have *returned* to this, most sacred of our shrines, never to part from them again."

Speaking calmly to the ranks of troops, many of whom were seen sobbing with emotion, General Dayan added: "To our Arab neighbours we offer even now—perhaps more firmly now—our hand in peace."

In another statement today General Dayan announced that Israel would allow Egyptian ships to pass through the Strait of Tiran. " It is an international waterway ", he said.

He promised that the rights of Arabs now under the flag of Israel —their number cannot yet be estimated here—would be fully protected. He stood beside Mr. Eshkol, the Prime Minister, and other leaders as the speeches went out to the nation by radio. Mr. Eshkol, his voice choking with emotion, said: "This is a great day in Jewish history."—*Reuter.*

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FEAR GRIPS CAIRO IN BLACK-OUT

Troops man Nile bridges

CAIRO, June 7.—Cairo tonight was gripped with fear and apprehension as Egypt's forces withdrew before the advancing Israelis.

Troops dug in on the city's perimeter and at strong points on the Nile bridges. More were reported digging in along the Nile valley, 40 miles west of the Suez Canal.

More than 50 Americans, including women and children, were under guard at a Cairo hotel awaiting evacuation in the wake of Egypt's order expelling United States citizens.

A crowd of several thousand Arabs, many of them close to hysteria, milled round Cairo's main railway station when rumour swept the capital that a trainload of Israeli prisoners was on its way from the battlefront.

Foreign journalists who went to the station were manhandled and refused admittance.

Egyptian soldiers, tired, bedraggled and unshaven, rolled into town from the front to be greeted by wildly cheering crowds. The troops were in battledress and steel helmets and some of their lorries towed field kitchens.

Run on food

Armed home guards patrolled the tense streets. Most shops remained open and there was a run on food supplies.

The city was blacked out tonight and every glimmer of light was greeted by angry howls from people in the streets.

Loudspeakers in public squares blared out news bulletins and anti-American invective. People in the city gathered in little knots along the streets to listen to transistor radios for the latest bulletins from the battle zone.

" We are not afraid of President Johnson ", roared one Cairo radio commentator.

As the Egyptian military command put out communiqués throughout the day, veiled and cautious though they were, the Cairo crowds began slowly to realize that the news was bad.—*Associated Press.*

Syria claims success in north

DAMASCUS, June 7.—Syrian tanks were reported breaking into northern Israel tonight, heading toward Safad, about 10 miles across the border, Damascus radio said Syrians had overrun the Huleh plain, just inside the frontier, and were mopping up last pockets of resistance in north-east Galilee.

An Israel position at Tel el Kasr settlement had been wiped out, and 10 Israel tanks and three other armoured vehicles had been destroyed in the fighting.

A communiqué by the Syrian Defence Ministry said clashes were continuing along the front. The enemy, it said, tried throughout today to mass its troops and approach the Syrian lines, " but our forces foiled this after strafing it with field artillery, particularly its concentration areas ".

Syria also said its aircraft had shot down three Israel bombers over Izraa, Nawa and Safad, bringing the total of Israel aircraft brought down today on this front to five bombers and two fighters.

A Damascus radio broadcast said: " British aircraft raided our positions after the failure of the Israel Air Force." The raiding aircraft were said to be Canberras.

The Palestinian commando organization Asafa (Hurricane) announced that its units had killed scores of Israel troops in various operations inside Israel.—*Reuter.*

Deadline set by United Nations

Soviet proposal adopted

From ERIC BRITTER, New York, June 7

A renewed call for an unconditional cease-fire in the Middle East, coupled now with a time limit set for tonight, has been made by the United Nations Security Council.

The council reconvened this afternoon, at the urgent request of the Soviet Union, which suddenly has become the most ardent advocate of peace in the area. Dr. Fedorenko introduced a motion couched in stronger terms than in the resolution adopted unanimously last night, and urged that it be adopted without further debate.

After a brief recess to study the terms of the Soviet motion, the council agreed unanimously to " demand that the governments concerned as a first step cease-fire and all military activity on June 7 at 20.00 hours G.M.T.". It again requested U Thant, the Secretary-General, to keep it promptly informed of the situation.

The first cease-fire call, made last night was immediately rejected by the representatives of Syria and Iraq. Mr. Adnan Pachachi, the Iraq Foreign Minister, described it as " an abject surrender to Israel ", and he asserted that the Arabs would go on fighting.

Verbal assault

Today, after the second, more peremptory resolution was passed, Mr. el Kony, the representative of the United Arab Republic, launched another verbal assault on Israel, repeated earlier Arab charges of British and American military collusion with Israel, but said nothing about whether his country accepted the cease-fire demand.

On the other hand, Mr. Abba Eban, the Israel Foreign Minister, told the council that his country "welcomes, supports and accepts" the United Nations directive. However, he seemed to imply that this acceptance was conditional on the Arab combatants doing likewise. He made the point that Jordan's acceptance was meaningless, as its armed forces were operating under a joint command controlled by Cairo.

No certainty exists that today's call will be heeded any more than yesterday's was. The really surprising feature of the latest development is the way in which Russia, ignoring Arab demands for condemnation of Israel and a simultaneous withdrawal of the forces of both sides to the positions which they held on June 4 (before the present hostilities started but after Egypt had occupied Sharm el Sheikh), has gone along with the western view that a simple, straightforward cease-fire call is the first order of business.

There can be no doubt that this amounts to a reversal of the Soviet stand of supporting the Arabs through thick and thin.

'Torture' case sentences today

Sentences will be passed today on the five men found Guilty on charges in the " torture " case at the Central Criminal Court.

In the case of the three other accused, two of whom were acquitted of the charges against them, Mr. Justice Lawton ordered that they be kept in custody in relation to other matters. The Judge discharged the jury from giving a verdict in the case of the third man. He was ordered to be kept in custody pending consideration " of two other matters concerning him ".

It was the forty-fifth day of the trial and the jury of one woman and 11 men were absent for nine hours and 26 minutes considering their verdicts.

The Judge said the jury would be able to go home in the usual way, but their surveillance by the police would continue for some time. Their " hot line " telephones for help would remain.

Report, page 2

Husain flight to Europe reported

Uncomfirmed reports from Rome last night that King Husain of Jordan was on his way there, were emphatically denied in London by the Jordan Ambassador, Mr. Midhet Juma.

A Reuter report of the rumours said that Ciampino military airport, normally quiet and unguarded, was swarming with plain-clothes police, police cars with flashing lights and military vehicles.

Mr. Juma told *The Times*: " King Husain is still in Jordan. He is on the west bank [of the river Jordan]. He is at the head of his Army. His morale is high. The reports are purely Israel propaganda."

Mr. Juma, who took up his appointment in London a few weeks ago, is brother of the Prime Minister of Jordan.

A Foreign Office spokesman said early today: " It has been learned from Amman that there is no truth whatsoever in the rumour that King Hussein is on his way to England ".

Mr. Johnson sets up peace team

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, JUNE 7

President Johnson has created a high-level government committee " to help build a new peace " in the Middle East as soon as the fighting ends.

The President announced today that he was establishing a special committee of the National Security Council, and had asked Mr. McGeorge Bundy, president of the Ford Foundation and his former special assistant for security affairs, to serve as a special consultant.

Bread and beer may go up

Rises in the prices of bread and beer are likely soon, according to statements made yesterday.

Mr. Denis King, outgoing president of the National Association of Master Bakers, said that the price of bread and other bakery products might rise in " the foreseeable future ". Representatives of the licensed trade said the time had arrived for an over-all adjustment of beer prices.

Dorothy Parker

NEW YORK, June 7.—Dorothy Parker, the American humorist, died today in the Manhattan hotel which was her home. She was 73. A short-story writer, poet, screen writer and drama critic, Miss Parker had been a member of the editorial staff of the magazines *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair* and was a contributor to *The New Yorker*.—*Reuter.*

Reginald Kray's wife dies

The wife of Reginald Kray, one of the Kray twins, was found dead at a flat in Hoxton, N., yesterday. Mrs. Frankie Kray, aged 23, was found dead by her brother, Mr. Frank Shea, at his flat in Wimbourne Court, Wimbourne Street.

Police said later that foul play was not suspected.

Chichester in hospital

Sir Francis Chichester is in hospital in Plymouth after suffering an internal haemorrhage from a duodenal ulcer on Monday night.

The hospital stated last night that his progress during the day was satisfactory, and he was responding well to treatment. He will be under medical care at least a month. Complete rest has been ordered.

There was no change in Sir Francis's condition at midnight. A naval spokesman said he had been " laughing and joking " during the day.

The Queen has postponed the ceremony in which she was to have knighted him at Greenwich next Tuesday. Other functions in his honour will take place later.

Rail deficit may be up £10m

British Railways have told Mrs. Castle, Minister of Transport, that their deficit may be £145m. this year—about £10m. more than last year.

Parliamentary report, page 7.

Irish officer shot

NEW YORK, JUNE 7

U Thant, the Secretary-General, today reported that Commandant Thomas P. Wickham, an Irish member of the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization, was killed by a rifle shot in Syria.

Obituary, page 12

Deposit on cars cut by 10%

Relaxations in hire purchase regulations for cars and goods vehicles were announced yesterday by Mr. Jay, President of the Board of Trade. From midnight last night the minimum deposit required for cars and goods vehicles is reduced from 40 per cent to 30 per cent, and the maximum period for repayment is increased from 24 months to 30.

The Government have been under heavy pressure for many weeks from the motor industry for some easing of regulations. Mr. Jay told the Commons that the easing of regulations would apply a modest stimulus to the economy generally.

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DERBY JOCKEY'S 3-CLASSIC TRIUMPH

'I TOOK SIR GORDON'S TIP'

By PAT HEALY

A small blonde girl, prettily dressed in turquoise, her face aglow with happiness, pushed determinedly through the Epsom crowds to the winner's enclosure today. " Well done, Daddy ", she said to George Moore, the jockey who had just won his third classic victory this season—a feat unequalled in modern times.

Moore, flushed and excited after his triumph, embarrassedly pushed his daughter, Michelle, aged 10, away as she tried to kiss him. Moore's mother, Mrs. Elsie Jessie Moore, aged 67, " and proud of it ", beamed from behind the railings. " I would have been an awfully disappointed mother if he had not won ", she said. " There was only one horse in the race for me." And to prove it she waved the £2 betting tickets she had placed on Royal Palace.

As Noel Murless, the trainer, left the enclosure, she introduced herself. Mr. Murless grinned and said: " Thank you for breeding a boy like him."

Mr. H. J. Joel, the owner, brushed aside questions about whether he intended to give part



Michelle Moore tries to kiss her father, but the rules forbid anyone touching a jockey before he weighs in

of his £61,918 winnings to the Israeli fighting fund. " What I do, I do in the right way, and I cannot say any more ", he said.

George Moore said he knew a long way from home that he would win. He came out of Tattenham Corner in about fourth or fifth place. The head lad at Noel Murless's stable had told him that Sir Gordon thought that to win at Epsom a jockey had to be among the leaders at that stage. Moore said: " I took the tip—it came from a good jockey."

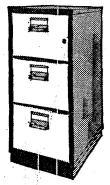
Seasoned racing correspondents racked their memories in vain to try to remember the last time a jockey had won the first three classic races of the flat season. " It must be before the turn of the century ", one said.

Round the course the commercial pageantry of Derby Day was in full swing. On the stands the petalled hats outnumbered the mini-skirts. Spectators harried each other trying to glimpse the Royal Family.

Stallholders selling everything from nonsensical fluffy dolls to candyfloss and television stools, did a roaring trade; while entertainment was provided by the slightly inebriated, trying to climb the slippery grass slope to the double-decked buses ranged between the course and the fun fair.

Report, page 13 ; Pictures, page 14.

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CHUBB business is protecting yours

Israel Offers Arabs Cease-Fire.
From CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 08, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56962.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001672

FEAR GRIPS CAIRO IN BLACK-OUT

Troops man Nile bridges

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As the Egyptian military command put out communiqués throughout the day, veiled and cautious though they were, the Cairo crowds began slowly to realize that the news was bad.—*Associated Press.*

Syria claims success in north

DAMASCUS, June 7.—Syrian tanks were reported breaking into northern Israel tonight, heading toward Safad, about 10 miles across the border. Damascus radio said Syrians had overrun the Huleh plain, just inside the frontier, and were mopping up last pockets of resistance in north-east Galilee.

An Israel position at Tel el Kasr settlement had been wiped out, and 10 Israel tanks and three other armoured vehicles had been destroyed in the fighting.

A communiqué by the Syrian Defence Ministry said clashes were continuing along the front. The enemy, it said, tried throughout today to mass its troops and approach the Syrian lines, "but our forces foiled this after strafing it with field artillery, particularly its concentration areas".

Syria also said its aircraft had shot down three Israel bombers over Izraa, Nawa and Safad, bringing the total of Israel aircraft brought down today on this front to five bombers and two fighters.

A Damascus radio broadcast said: "British aircraft raided our positions after the failure of the Israel Air Force." The raiding aircraft were said to be Canberras.

The Palestinian commando organization Assefa (Hurricane) announced that its units had killed scores of Israel troops in various

Fear Grips Cairo In Black-Out.
The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 08, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56962.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17263816

Deadline set by United Nations

Soviet proposal adopted

From ERIC BRITTER, New York, June 7

A renewed call for an unconditional cease-fire in the Middle East, coupled now with a time limit set for tonight, has been made by the United Nations Security Council.

The council reconvened this afternoon, at the urgent request of the Soviet Union, which suddenly has become the most ardent advocate of peace in the area. Dr. Fedorenko introduced a motion couched in stronger terms than in the resolution adopted unanimously last night, and urged that it be adopted without further debate.

After a brief recess to study the terms of the Soviet motion, the council agreed unanimously to " demand that the governments concerned as a first step cease-fire and all military activity on June 7 at 20.00 hours G.M.T.". It again requested U Thant, the Secretary-General, to keep it promptly informed of the situation.

The first cease-fire call, made last night was immediately rejected by the representatives of Syria and Iraq. Mr. Adnan Pachachi, the Iraq Foreign Minister, described it as " an abject surrender to Israel ", and he asserted that the Arabs would go on fighting.

Verbal assault

Today, after the second, more peremptory resolution was passed, Mr. el Kony, the representative of the United Arab Republic, launched another verbal assault on Israel, repeated earlier Arab charges of British and American military collusion with Israel, but said nothing about whether his country accepted the cease-fire demand.

On the other hand, Mr. Abba Eban, the Israel Foreign Minister, told the council that his country "welcomes, supports and accepts" the United Nations directive. However, he seemed to imply that this acceptance was conditional on the Arab combatants doing likewise. He made the point that Jordan's acceptance was meaningless, as its armed forces were operating under a joint command controlled by Cairo.

No certainty exists that today's call will be heeded any more than yesterday's was. The really surprising feature of the latest development is the way in which Russia, ignoring Arab demands for condemnation of Israel and a simultaneous withdrawal of the forces of both sides to the positions which they held on June 4 (before the present hostilities started but after Egypt had occupied Sharm el Sheikh), has gone along with the western view that a simple, straightforward cease-fire call is the first order of business.

There can be no doubt that this amounts to a reversal of the Soviet stand of supporting the Arabs through thick and thin.

'Torture' case sentences today

Sentences will be passed today on the five men found Guilty on charges in the " torture " case at the Central Criminal Court.

In the case of the three other accused, two of whom were acquitted of the charges against them, Mr. Justice Lawton ordered that they be kept in custody in relation to other matters. The Judge discharged the jury from giving a verdict in the case of the third man. He was ordered to be kept in custody pending consideration " of two other matters concerning him ".

It was the forty-fifth day of the trial and the jury of one woman and 11 men were absent for nine hours and 26 minutes considering their verdicts.

The Judge said the jury would be able to go home in the usual way, but their surveillance by the police would continue for some time. Their " hot line " telephones for help would remain.

Report, page 2

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Police chief not to be named **3**

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Deadline set by United Nations.
From ERIC BRITTER

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 08, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56962.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17919176

Cairo keeps up its air accusations

'Britons flying for Israel'

From PETER HOPKIRK, Cairo, June 7

The Egyptians gave further details today to support their charge that American and British aircraft have joined in the battle against the Arabs. Mahmoud Riad, the Foreign Minister, said that an Israel pilot who had been brought down and captured in Syria had testified that this was so.

The pilot, whose name was given as Abraham Shelan, was quoted as saying that 17 British bombers, which arrived at Agloun airport shortly before the Israel attack, had been used to strafe military targets in Syria and the United Arab Republic.

Total of 400

Muhammad Haikal, the editor in chief of *Al Ahram*, who is close to President Nasser and the Egyptian Supreme Command, said in a special article today that American and British aircraft had provided a protective "umbrella" over Israel, enabling Israel aircraft to go on the offensive.

This, he said, would explain why no wreckage of British or American aircraft had been found, as these would fall inside Israel's borders.

He added that the British and American Governments had supplied the Israel Air Force with pilots under the guise of volunteers. There were American aircraft with Israel markings waiting for United States Air Force pilots from Europe.

He said that Britain and America had given air support particularly on the Jordan front, which was the most sensitive front to the Israelis. The Jordan radar had clearly recorded "wave after wave" of aircraft taking off from two carriers off the coast of Israel. The total number of aircraft raiding the Jordan front was about 400. Israel did not possess so large a number of aircraft to send to one front while fighting on several others.

Capture of frogmen

He said that "conclusive evidence of American treason was given yesterday when King Husain told President Nasser over the telephone that American aircraft bombed my house with rockets".

Other evidence, Haikal said, included the discovery that Israel pilots who had been brought down carried maps whose origin was the British Ministry of Defence. "Some had aerial pictures of Egyptian positions which could only have been taken by American U 2 spy aircraft." Also some aircraft which raided the canal zone had no markings.

The *Al Ahram* article said that the United States, the country on which the Arab peoples had once pinned high hopes, had turned out to be their enemy.

American correspondents in Cairo have been ordered to leave the country immediately. No instructions have yet been given to British reporters.

Six Israel frogmen have been captured in Alexandria, according to official sources. A search, it was said, was still going on for others while the captives were being interrogated. The frogmen were said to have told interrogators that they had paddled ashore from a submarine, in rubber boats.

After yesterday's burning of the British consulates at Alexandria and Port Said the country appeared calm, with a ban imposed on demonstrations. Britons were advised by their consulate to remain by their telephones in case an evacuation was ordered.

The Egyptian Supreme Command announced that its forces in Sharm el Sheikh "have now joined our forces in Sinai".

It said Egyptian forces were now fighting fiercely with the enemy on second-line positions after evacuating the first-line ones.

Collusion reports discounted

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Reports reaching London yesterday gave no support to the wild accusations of British and United States collusion with the Israel Air Force put out by Cairo radio on Tuesday.

According to one Cairo radio announcement the accusations orginated in a message from King Husain of Jordan to President Nasser, but this is not thought in London to be true. There is no reason to suppose that King Husain has associated himself in any way with this story.

Throughout yesterday diplomatists in London, whether from Arab, communist, or other countries, clearly did not believe any of the reports about direct involvement by British or United States aircraft.



An Egyptian soldier surrenders to Israel forces at a crossroads near El Arish in Sinai.



Mr. Abba Eban, Israel Foreign Minister, addressing the Security Council.

Ex-Nazis said to be in Egypt

VIENNA, June 7.—Herr Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Jewish Documentation Centre, claimed today to have information that former Nazis, including German alleged war criminals, are holding posts in Egypt.

He told journalists that several hundred Germans have changed their names and are now working on Egypt's anti-semitic propaganda or in concentration camps.

He listed a number of men he said were living in the U.A.R., including two who were aides of Adolf Eichmann, former concentration camp doctors, and a former Gestapo officer.—*Reuter.*

HIGHLIGHTS OF EVENTS IN MIDDLE EAST

Egypt admitted yesterday that her forces were evacuating their defence bases in Sinai, after heavy battles with Israel troops were reported 25 miles from the Suez Canal.

The Israel Army continued to advance on the Suez Canal and Sharm el Sheikh, at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba, was captured.

Other main points in reports on the Middle East war are:—

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EGYPT.—Troops dug in to defend the Cairo perimeter as Israel forces advanced. Page 1.

SYRIA.—Some British and United States diplomatists have left Damascus. The Defence Ministry said that the Huleh plain in Israel had been overrun. Page 4.

JORDAN. — Amman radio called for Muslims to rally to the defence of Jerusalem, and the Government claimed that 22 Israel aircraft had been shot down.

SAUDI ARABIA.—Oil wells have been closed after anti-American riots. Page 4.

IRAQ.—The Baghdad Government told the British Ambassador that it had proof that British and United States aircraft carriers had provided air cover for the Israelis. Page 4.

LIBYA.—The Government has ordered the immediate suspension of all oil pumping and oil exports.

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RUSSIA. — Moscow threatened to sever relations with Israel unless it observed the Security Council call for a cease-fire. Page 5.

VATICAN.—The Pope renewed his appeal for peace and for Jerusalem to be declared an open city. Page 6.

Envoys told to go

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Reports reaching London yesterday of the severing of diplomatic relations with Britain by Syria, Iraq, and Sudan illustrate the varying manner in which this was done.

Cairo keeps up its air accusations.
From PETER HOPKIRK

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 08, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56962.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67333320

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Envoys told to go

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Reports reaching London yesterday of the severing of diplomatic relations with Britain by Syria, Iraq, and Sudan illustrate the varying manner in which this was done.

In Damascus Mr. T. E. Evans, the British Ambassador, was read a translation of a manuscript which declared that bitter experience had shown that the British Government was responsible for all Arab tribulations.

He was invited to leave within 48 hours, together with his diplomatic, consular, and other staff, but was told that one member could be left for a week to wind up the mission.

In Baghdad, Sir Richard Beaumont, the British Ambassador, was presented with a communication which spoke of "convincing proof" that protective air cover had been given from British and United States aircraft carriers and bases to the Israel Air Force.

The British and the United States Governments, it said, carried out effective acts of hostility against the Arab states and therefore diplomatic relations were being severed. It was not clear, however, how soon the British mission was required to leave.

In Khartum, Sir Robert Fowler was told that the break must take place forthwith, but was given an assurance that the British community would be looked after and informed that there was no great hurry about the departure of the staff.

India's food supplies

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

DELHI, JUNE 7

The closing of the Suez Canal may not have as disastrous an effect on arrivals of food in India as was first thought.

Some food ships come from the east, mostly with commercial cargoes of rice, and the Cape route will add only about six days

Even if the closure of the Suez Canal should bring about a brief interruption in food arrivals, the Government's main worry is still the period from mid-August. Of the 6m. tons needed for the second half of the year, agreement by the United States to supply 1,500,000 is all that can presently be seen. The consortium countries have not so far decided upon their contributions.

MP in Tel Aviv crossfire

Mr. Frank Judd, Labour M.P. for Portsmouth West, arrived in London last night in the first aircraft from Tel Aviv since the war started. He brought home a bag of mail from the staff of the British Embassy, the British Consulate, and the British Council for their families.

Mr. Judd, who is 32, flew to Israel last Saturday to attend a conference. During his visit he drove through crossfire between the opposing armies in Jerusalem to see Mr. Ian Alexander, the British Consul in the Israel section of the City, whose office was in the firing line. "Bullets were whizzing all round the building", he told *The Times*. "The consul's car was bullet-ridden." Mr. Alexander was working on his own, having sent his staff home where he thought they would be safer.

Highlights Of Events In Middle East.
The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 08, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56962.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67595464

OIL WELLS SHUT IN SAUDI ARABIA

Anti-American riots

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT—New York, June 7

The Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco), which accounts for almost all of Saudi Arabia's output, is suspending all operations there because of anti-American riots, and it plans to evacuate a large number of dependants of its American staff.

A crowd of several hundred, including Aramco employees, took part in disturbances which damaged expatriates' homes and property, the company said. No one was injured and no oil installations were damaged.

The company shut off its wells and refining plant at Dhahran, Aqaiq and Ras Tanura on the Persian Gulf this morning. It would be able, a spokesman said, to bring out all American staff (1,350 with 2,300 dependants) but so far did not consider it necessary.

Aramco is a joint venture of Standard Oil of New Jersey, Standard Oil of California, and Texaco, each with 30 per cent, and Mobil Oil with 10 per cent.

The Phillips Petroleum Company has suspended operations in the western desert of Egypt, where it has recently made promising oil strikes. Standard Oil of Indiana said this morning that its joint operation with the Egyptian Government at El Morgan near the Gulf of Suez was continuing in spite of the breach in diplomatic relations between Cairo and Washington.

Increased output

In Libya, Oasis Oil, owned jointly by Continental Oil and Marathon (a third each) and Amerada and Royal Dutch-Shell (a third between them) reports no damage and no injury as a result of the seizure of terminals and offices by workers on Monday. The workers held up operations for five hours until the Libyan authorities removed them. Oasis produces about a third of Libyan oil.

In Kuwait, the oil installations are reported under Army guard. The bulk of oil production there is by the Kuwait Oil Company, owned in equal shares by Gulf Oil and British Petroleum.

Gulf said that even if Kuwait maintains its ban on shipments to Britain and the United States it expected to be able to meet all its customers' needs, probably by increased output in Venezuela.

Consulate burnt

ALGIERS, June 7.—The United States Consulate in the Yemen capital of Taizz was burnt today during a demonstration by several thousand angry Yemenis, the Algerian news agency reported.—*Reuter.*

International Socialist move

BY OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Socialist International were trying yesterday to arrange for a representative of the Israel Labour Party, Mapai, to fly to London to attend an emergency meeting on the Middle East war which they have called for this afternoon.

Contacts proved difficult to make, but it was still hoped last night that someone would arrive. Dr. S. Levenberg, the Mapai Party's representative in western Europe, will be present in any case. Mr. A. Greenwood will be the Labour Party delegate, and Mr. George Brown will be there for part of the time.

Among subjects likely to be discussed are the question of practical help for victims of the war and the possible lines of a political settlement when the fighting ends, which would have sufficient stability to avoid a repetition of the present struggle and a resumption of guerrilla attacks across the frontiers.

German initiative

The meeting has been called by the chairman, Dr. Bruno Pitterman, former Vice-Chancellor of Austria, on the initiative of the German Social Democratic Party, supported by the Labour Party and the French Socialist Party. It is hoped that M. Guy Mollet, the French party leader, will be present.

All parties with seats on the executive bureau of the International will be represented and others have been invited. No Arab parties are directly affiliated to the International.

£25m Arab aid

Kuwait is to give £25m. to the United Arab Command, its London Embassy announced yesterday. The gesture of support for the campaign against Israel was agreed by the Kuwait Cabinet.

Oil Wells Shut In Saudi Arabia.
FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 08, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56962.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67988680

De Gaulle-Kosygin consultations

Direct teleprinter link

From CHARLES HARGROVE, Paris, June 7

General de Gaulle told the meeting of the Council of Ministers this morning that he had been in direct contact several times with Mr. Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, by means of the green teleprinter in the Elysée linked with the Kremlin.

Asked about the nature of the messages exchanged, M. Georges Gorse, the Minister of Information, told the press that they concerned the best means of achieving agreement on a cease-fire resolution.

In a statement this afternoon to the National Assembly, M. Couve de Murville, the Foreign Minister, said the agreement reached between Russia and the United States had naturally been decisive in bringing about this agreement in the Security Council.

"But it is my duty to say that throughout the discussions the President of the Republic himself and the Government actively followed them and in particular kept permanent contact with the Soviet Government", he added.

Debate refused

"The permanent representative of France at the United Nations, working closely with his Russian and American colleagues, made a contribution to the final result for which, I believe, it is fair to express our gratitude."

The Foreign Minister's impatiently awaited statement was pitched in the deliberately low key to which he inclines by temperament.

The Government, he said, had refused a debate on the Middle East crisis because, in the present circumstances, what was needed first was action and concentration of effort on bringing the fighting to an end. The French Government did not think it possible to find a durable solution to any of the problems which opposed Israel and the Arab countries through force.

The problem from the start seemed to it far greater than the sole relations of Egypt with the Jewish state. The great powers played a decisive role in the Middle East. "It is assuredly not in their interest, if as he believed, they sincerely desire peace, to keep local rivalries alive and use existing oppositions for their own purposes", he said. "The question, in the interest of all, is to try to unite, not to divide."

M. Couve de Murville retraced the sequence of events from the border incident of April 7 between Israel and Syria.

As an example of the way in which the four great powers could help in the solution of the basic problems of the Middle East, he instanced the Gulf of Aqaba. Maritime law was too controverted not to give rise to incessant conflict as the Bosporus and Dardanelles showed.

As in their case, an international convention would have to be worked out which was signed by all the interested parties and would create a situation guaranteed to last.

"This is a particularly significant instance, I believe, of the wholesale programme France proposes for international cooperation, exercised for example within the framework of the United Nations, and first between the four, to try to settle finally the problems which, since the creation of Israel, are responsible for the fact that the Middle East has now no real peace", he said.

The outbreak of hostilities would have been exceptionally serious if the great powers had followed. But wisdom manifested itself. The unanimous reflex had been; the conflict must be stopped immediately.

The cease-fire had now to be applied. The fundamental problems had not changed and they had to be solved if Israel and her neighbours were to know real peace. "In my opinion", he said, "our country can and must play a part in accordance with its tradition in the Orient and its mission in the world in this great task which must be undertaken.

"The Government believes that, by the action it has pursued, by the standpoint it has assumed, by the contacts it entertains with all in a spirit of objectivity, it has prepared for the future the task which befalls France."

Arms embargo

Only one speaker was allowed, in accordance with standing orders, to reply to the Government and this fell to M. Guy Mollet, the Socialist leader.

Although critical of the Government's neutralist declaration of June 2, which constituted a disengagement from Israel, and while deploring its refusal to allow a debate, he did not press his attack too far, and recalled the support of the Opposition for the proposed four power conference on Middle East problems.

"Nothing can be settled in that part of the world if Russia is not present," he said.

M. Mollet went on to say that the French embargo on arms shipments discriminated against Israel since it did not apply to all belligerents, for instance Algeria.

De Gaulle-Kosygin consultations.
From CHARLES HARGROVE

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 08, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56962.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS84110536

ADVERTISEMENT

JOINT ISRAELI-ARAB STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

by The Israeli Socialist Organisation and The Palestinian Democratic Front

The following statement was agreed and signed by an Arab and an Israeli organization on the day before war broke out. The statement analyses the entire problem, and both signatory parties stand firm by their analysis and principled solution irrespective of the outcome of the military campaign. The signatory parties are opposed to the official policies of their nationalist leaders, and are not favoured by current public opinion among their own peoples. But their existence proves that not everyone in the Middle East is sick with the nationalist fever.

The Israeli Socialist Organization is an Israeli group, with a Jewish-Arab membership, operating legally in Israel and publishing a small newspaper. The Palestinian Democratic Front is a clandestine group of Palestinians operating inside Jordan. The groups have had contact in the past few years, and decided to publish this statement openly at this time, so that the bridges of understanding between Jews and Arabs in the Middle East will not be irreparably damaged by the present crisis.

The situation in the Middle East is explosive. A cruel war is breaking out. There is no doubt that this war will destroy many lives, but little hope that it will bring a political solution any nearer.

In the last minutes before the Middle East is drowned in its third bloodbath in 20 years, we, Jews and Arabs, representing two political organisations, Israeli and Palestinian, met under the auspices of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, discussed the present crisis, analysed its history, propose a solution and make the following declaration.

The new generation all over the world is fed up with racist and nationalist ideologies, politics and strife. Too many times in recent years these policies have drenched whole areas of the world in futile, bloody wars, demonstrating to a disgusted humanity their inherent inability to solve the problem which their very existence creates. India and Pakistan, Greece and Turkey, Iraq and Kurdistan, Israel and the Arab states all provide examples of conflict situations which, however differing in political background, have one thing in common : the underlying political realities are swamped in a torrent of competing nationalisms. The only result such policies ever achieve is to turn persecutor into persecuted, oppressor into oppressed.

This new generation struggles to free itself from institutions and ideas imposed on it by a bloody past. It aspires to rid itself once and for all from policies and systems that have outlived their time, are unable to cope with the realities of the space age, and create a torture chamber for mankind. It watches with disgust the hysterical racialism and nationalism that is manipulated by the propaganda machines of all parties in the Middle East crisis.

The present crisis is a phase in one of the most complex political problems of our times. Apart from its complexity, it is a situation where the heritage of the past greatly influences the present issues. Nevertheless the historical realities are being ignored by those who stand to gain most from the crisis. An analysis of the history of the situation will expose the gigantic hoax which the emotion manipulators and moral blackmailers are trying to impose on their own people and on the world.

The Israeli-Arab conflict is the continuation, in a new form, of the "Palestine problem." The "Palestine problem" is the conflict between political Zionism and the Palestinian Arabs. It is the result of the dispossession of the indigenous population of Palestine by Zionist colonisation. It has nothing to do with the age old problem of anti-Semitism, except that Zionism was a product of European anti-Semitism. Anti-Jewish attitudes were virtually unknown in the Arab world, where large Jewish communities prospered for centuries.

Towards the end of the 19th century, the Jews were driven to desperation by persecution in Europe. Political Zionism, accepting anti-Semitism as a natural, eternal quality in human nature, proposed to solve the problem by creating a national state for the Jews in Palestine. But Palestine was already populated by 700,000 Palestinians, some probably descendants of the ancient Hebrews. In 1900 the Jews constituted less than 10 per cent of the population and owned less than 10 per cent of the land in Palestine. The Palestinians too aspired to political independence in their homeland.

The struggle of the Palestinians was naturally directed against their foreign rulers, first the Ottoman Empire, then the British. The Zionist leaders, realising they could not achieve their objective if Palestine became independent before it had a Jewish majority, chose to further their interests by aligning themselves with the foreign rulers. Between the two World Wars, the British supported whichever side could contribute most to their interests. Political Zionism gradually developed a closed Jewish society and economy in Palestine, excluding—on principle—the Palestinian Arabs. The Palestinian socio-economic structure became deformed. The Arab peasants lost their land because their feudal landlords sold it for artificially high prices to the Zionist institutions. The disinherited and unemployed masses fell prey to corrupted religious leaders like Haj Emin el Husseini, who spent the war with Hitler.

In the thirties, the rise of fascism in Europe brought new waves of Jewish immigrants into Palestine. Then, in 1936, the general strike of the Palestinian Arabs sparked off the Palestinian rebellion, which was cheated by the Arab rulers and finally defeated by the British Army in 1939. As a result of this defeat, political Zionism and British imperialism were left as the only two combatants in the arena.

The Nazi regime introduced a totally new factor into the situation. The planned, industrialized, racial extermination of 6,000,000 Jews shocked many people all over the world, who were unaware of the realities in Palestine, into the conclusion that the Jews must be granted political independence in Palestine. At the end of the war the Jewish community in Palestine, strengthened morally by world sympathy and militarily by participation in the fight against fascism, began its own struggle against the British.

All this culminated in the Palestine Partition resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, on 29 November, 1947. Two states were to be established—one for the Palestinian Arabs, the other for the Jewish community in Palestine.

The British "Labour" Government of the day tried to create chaos in Palestine so as to invalidate the resolution. In a secret meeting in Bludan (Syria) Major I. C. Clayton, the liaison officer between the Arab League and the Foreign Office, planned and organised the invasion of Palestine by the armies of Farouk, Nuri-Said and Abdallah. The Jews were forced to fight not just for independence, but for survival. President Nasser was an officer in this war. In his book "The Philosophy of the Revolution" he describes how he felt the war to be an imperialist plot, designed to subdue the struggle against the Farouk and Nuri-Said regimes and, at the same time, to bring the British back into Palestine in the role of pacifier. President Nasser had friendly talks with Israeli soldiers, such as Yigal Allon, inquiring how they managed to get rid of British imperialism. The U.S.S.R., probably because of its anti-imperialist policy, supported the partition resolution. Czechoslovakia supplied the arms with which imperialism was defeated. It was not "the Arabs" who were defeated in 1948, but the policies of British imperialism manipulating the armies of the feudal monarchies of Farouk, Abdallah and Abdel-Ilah.

But the 1948 war was turned from a defensive act into an aggressive one when Ben-Gurion, after secret negotiations through Colonel Dayan and Golda Meir, approved by the British Foreign Office, concluded a secret agreement with King Abdallah of Trans-Jordan in 1949, by which each of them annexed half of the territory allotted to the Palestinian Arabs by the U.N. The U.N. resolution was thus violated not only by the British Government and its Arab puppets, but also by the Ben Gurion Government. The Palestinian Arabs became the real victims of a war in which they hardly participated. They lost their land, property, honour and independence. They were dispersed into the Gaza strip, Jordan and Israel. Ever since they have lived a wretched life as refugees in camps around Israel as second-rate citizens inside Israel, as betrayed people in Jordan, refusing to give up hope, victims of the plot compounded by the British, the Israeli leaders and the Arab monarchies to rob them of their rights.

Having forsaken U.N. recognition of their borders, Ben-Gurion and Abdallah looked for some international power to sanctify the accomplished fact of carving up Arab Palestine. Sure enough, Britain, France and the U.S. gave their blessing to this new situation, henceforth to be known as the "status quo", in the Tri-Partite Declaration of 26 May, 1950. This declaration, explicitly sanctifying a violation of a U.N. resolution, was never recognised by any Arab Government. Its authority rests entirely on imperialist power. Through this declaration, the "friendly enemies" Ben-Gurion and Abdallah, became dependent on the Western Powers for their territorial integrity. This state of affairs persists to this very day and underlies the whole problem and the present crisis.

The first Arab leader to recognise the Partition Resolution of the U.N. was President Nasser himself. It was he who formulated the Palestine Resolution at the historic Conference of Afro-Asian states in Bandung, in April 1955, which states :

> "Owing to the tension in the Middle East, which results from the Palestine problem, and the fact that this situation endangers world peace, the Conference of the Afro-Asian States expresses its full support for the rights of the Palestinian Arabs, and calls for the implementation of the U.N. resolutions on Palestine, demanding a solution by peaceful means."

Ben-Gurion rejected this offer publicly because it contradicted the territorial annexations. His policy then and since was founded on the principle of accomplished facts sustained by force. Later, through co-operation with J. F. Dulles's pact making policies in the area, he tried to force acceptance of the "status quo" on the Arab states. Moreover, a state practising Jewish superiority in Palestine was boycotted by, and isolated from, the entire Arab world. Being economically unviable, it became completely dependent on Western economic and political support. On the eve of the Suez campaign, President Nasser, sensing what awaited him, tacitly agreed to accept the "status quo", after secret contacts in Malta and Rome. But Ben-Gurion preferred to spearhead the Eden-Mollet aggression, and supply the pretext for the "peacemaking" role of the Anglo-French invasion. After this invasion even tacit agreement with Ben-Gurion became impossible.

Two weeks ago, President Nasser, undoing the last remnant of the Suez aggression, an accomplished fact which Ben-Gurion and U.S. imperial power imposed on him for ten years, implemented his legal rights in the straits of Tiran. This caused an uproar in Israel, not so much because of the economic aspect, but because this deed undermines the entire philosophy of the "accomplished fact" policy. If one such fact can be undone, what about the others ? What about the territorial status quo itself ? Especially now, when Wilson and de Gaulle consider their commitments under the Tri-Partite Declaration of 1950 no longer binding, and Johnson refuses to sacrifice his interests for the sake of a government which, by its own internal logic, cannot choose to serve anyone but him. Are accomplished facts, implemented by force, preferable to mutual agreement ?

The Palestinians, whom Ben-Gurion and Hussein consigned to oblivion, saw their hope to become free people in their land nearer to realisation through Egyptian military power. They expected Nasser, the recognised leader of the anti-imperialist struggle in the Arab world, to topple the weakened Hussein, their arch oppressor and betrayer, and take up their cause. Until 29 May, Nasser, Cairo Radio and all the Egyptian propaganda apparatus viciously attacked Hussein, denounced his Premier as a C.I.A. agent and led the Palestinians to believe that they would re-establish their independence in Palestine. The corrupt Palestinian nationalist politician, Shukairy, declared : "Hussein is a puppet of world imperialism. In order to liberate Palestine we must first overthrow Hussein."

Then, in a sudden and dramatic betrayal of the Palestinians, Nasser signed a pact with Hussein, gave "his Arab brother" a kiss of life in front of the T.V. cameras, and saved this feudal monarch and imperialist puppet in the most dangerous moment of his career. This racialist Shukairy, who only a few days earlier had screamed : "There will be no Jewish survivors in the Holy War of liberating Palestine", was a party to this opportunist pact. Simultaneously, Nasser offered a similar deal to Faisal, the well known pro-imperialist feudal ruler of Saudi Arabia. In the past it was always Ben Gurion and the British who saved Hussein's throne : suddenly—it is Nasser.

Just as the official Israeli policies offer no salvation to the Jews of Israel, Nasser's and Shukairy's policies offer no salvation to the Palestinian Arabs. Once again national leaders have shown how cynically they exploit the interests of the people for their own purposes, but sell them out in their power deals. The present crisis illuminates in harsh light the futility of the nationalists of both sides. The Israeli leadership refuses to realise that the days of "accomplished facts" are over. As for the nationalist leadership of the Palestinians, their kiss of life to Hussein is a kiss of death to themselves. The present leaders of both sides cannot bury the issue because it is too much alive, and they cannot solve it because they suffer incurably from nineteenth century nationalism, because they are emotionally conditioned by territorial and national issues and majority-minority complexes. In Palestine it is not territory which must be liberated or defended ; but the minds of the people which must be liberated from racialism and defended against nationalism. Only when the people liberate their minds from their own prejudices and misconceptions will they liberate themselves from the grip of rulers who drag them from one nationalist war to the next.

The Palestine problem has two fundamental political aspects : that of re-establishing the rights of the Palestinian Arabs ; and that of integrating the Israelis into the political structure of the Middle East. These hard political issues have for years been submerged by nationalism. The Arab nationalist leaders pretend to have a solution to the first aspect ; they do not even claim one for the second. But even their "solution" to the first problem is based not on political concepts but on policies of war, subjugation, and racial extermination. The shallowness of their policies is now being disguised by a hysterical outburst of racialist emotion, which is as dangerous to those that feel it as to those against whom it is directed.

Moreover, since no human being with dignity can tolerate a policy of wiping out an entire population, as Nasser and Shukairy have recently declared, Wilson and Johnson can enshrine their interventionist policies with an aura of righteousness, and rally to their support even those who oppose their Vietnam policies. Even worse, this racialist propaganda provides the leaders of Israel with their most powerful moral weapon, silencing every internal criticism, consolidating the entire population behind the "national leadership", and mobilising the support of multitudes of honest people all over the world to their side. The incontrovertible moral rightness of the cause of the Palestinian Arabs has been sacrificed once more, this time on the altar of racialist mumbo-jumbo, and the unholy "alliance" between the nationalists and the feudalists. Faced with the present crisis and the mass hysteria with which it has been invested, we say to the present leaders of both sides :

To the Israeli leaders : Do not take military initiative against any Arab state. Even a decisive military victory will not solve your problem but only aggravate it and postpone any possible solution. It is not the Arab armies which you have to face but the entire population of the Arab world. If you want free passage through the straits of Tiran—negotiate with Egypt and not with the U.S.A.

No military or political power can ensure, for long, free passage in Tiran if an Egyptian Government refuses to grant it. No government will surrender such rights under threats of force. It is Ben-Gurion, and his Suez policy, not Nasser, that you should blame for this fiasco.

Instead of threatening "to go it alone" militarily, try a policy of *political* independence from the U.S.A. Show readiness to re-discuss the Palestine problem, the "status-quo", and the refugee issue. In the historical context of the Middle East it is Israel that must take the initiative in making concessions to the Palestinians, and not the other way round. State that you recognise in principle the human and political rights of the Palestinian Arabs. Recognise that Zionism has outlived its declared purpose, that Israel has become not a refuge but the most dangerous place in the world for Jews to live in.

To President Nasser : Show by words and acts that you are ready to negotiate innocent passage in Tiran if Israel shows readiness to re-discuss its policies towards the Palestinians, the Western powers, and the Arab states. Stop immediately all racialist propaganda, all talk of "destroying Israel" and "total war to liberate Palestine". Suggest a political solution to the Palestine problem that recognises the political rights of the Israelis in Palestine.

If a war with Israel will aim to destroy the people or their state as a political entity, all Israelis will fight for survival, and every person with human dignity in the world, whatever his views on the wrongs which political Zionism has inflicted on the Palestinians, will actively oppose such destruction and such declared aims. The world cannot tolerate rulers who wish to destroy entire states.

Moreover, the struggle of the Israeli population to preserve its political identity will continue even after an Arab victory, just as the struggle of the Palestinian population to preserve its political identity will continue after an Israeli victory.

The steps mentioned above can be taken by those who are in power now to cool the crisis before it breaks into another war. They will not solve the underlying political problems. As we have said, the Palestine problem has two main political aspects :

That of re-establishing the rights of the Palestinians, and that of integrating the Israelis into the Arab-East. The Arab nationalist leaders pretend to have a solution to the first ("Liberation of Palestine"), they do not even claim a solution to the second. The Zionist leaders of Israel pretend to have a solution to the second ("preserve the 'status-quo'"), they do not even claim one for the first.

However, only a solution which simultaneously resolves both aspects of the problem can provide a viable, stable solution.

We herewith state our solution, which satisfies this fundamental requirement :

1. Israel must undergo a deep, revolutionary, transformation and become a normal state of its own inhabitants. The Zionist power structure and all elements of Jewish supremacy must be abolished totally. This must be achieved only through internal joint struggle of all non-Zionists inside Israel who wish to integrate this state in the Middle East.
2. This, non-Zionist Israel will repatriate the Palestinian refugees who wish to return, and *fully compensate those who prefer not to return* for their property, land and suffering. It will declare its readiness to make territorial concessions to the Palestinians, and help them to establish an independent Palestinian state should they wish to do so.
3. Whether the Palestinians establish their state or, for the sake of unity, do not, the new, transformed, non-Zionist Israel will pursue a policy of merging the Israelis and Palestinians in a federal, non-nationalist, socialist state, wherein Jews and Arabs will enjoy full civil rights and cultural freedom.
4. This federal state will participate in the process of political and economic unification of the entire Middle East.

The implementation of these principles will necessarily depend on actual circumstances, but we herewith solemnly declare that under no circumstances shall we allow measures of national discrimination or racial supremacy to be re-introduced.

Frankly, we do not expect these changes can be brought about by the nationalist parties any more than by the feudal monarchies. Even socialist parties will fail while they are still enslaved by nationalist attitudes. If Nasser's union with Syria collapsed, if the Ba'ath failed to unify Syria and Iraq, how can they be expected to tackle the much more complicated task of unifying Jews and Arabs in Palestine ? It is not by accident that only we, socialists freed from the shackles of nationalism, can work together and jointly propose a solution. It is because our loyalty is not to this or that nation, but to humanity as a political entity, and to its only possible mode of existence—socialism.

We say to all chauvinist, nationalist and racialist Israeli and Arab leaders : for 19 years you have failed to move one inch towards agreement. You have had two wars, and now you are preparing a third which will bring no salvation but death.

We, Israeli and Arab socialists, have produced our joint solution to the problem. We challenge you to produce yours—now. If you fail to do so you will go down in history not with your self-assumed moral aura of martyrs or liberators, anti-imperialists or patriots, but as victims of your own propaganda, prisoners of fossilised ideologies, and slaves of self-created emotionalism. Why can we reach mutual agreement, in full awareness of the intricacies of the problem, and you cannot ? Is it because we speak, first and foremost as members of humanity, and only then as members of this or that nation, whereas with you it is the other way round ?

We herewith re-assert our human dignity by firmly rejecting any racialist and nationalist solution to the political problems of people.

More than once in this century nationalist leaders were thought of as saviours, and millions of blind followers' bodies paved their road to hell.

The Israeli Socialist Organisation

The Palestinian Democratic Front. 3rd June, 1967.

We call upon individuals, organizations and parties, who approve of the spirit of this declaration to endorse it

This statement was made possible by the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, 3-4 Shavers Place, Haymarket, London, S.W.1. Tel. WHI 4209 & FLA 1451

Middle East Crisis.
The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 08, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56962.

Category: Display Advertising

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Israel troops entering the town of Gaza before their drive across the Sinai peninsula.

DIPLOMATIC BREAK IS THREATENED

RUSSIAN PRESSURE ON ISRAEL

From KYRIL TIDMARSH—Moscow, June 7

Russia tonight threatened to break off diplomatic relations with Israel unless it complied with the Security Council's cease-fire resolution. A Government statement said Israel was "grossly and demonstrably trampling this resolution under foot and continuing the war against Arab states".

This, was "extra proof of the aggressive nature of your policy, which openly disregards the elementary norms of international relations and the purposes of the United Nations Charter'

If Israel does not immediately comply with the resolution the Soviet Union will "revise its attitude to Israel" and "adopt a decision concerning the further maintenance of diplomatic relations".

It goes without saying, it continued, that the Soviet Union will consider and implement "other necessary measures arising from Israel's aggressive policy".

While thus seeking to exert pressure on Israel, the Soviet Government is giving no currency to the Arab allegations that Britain took part in attacks on the Arab states. Until this evening, the accusations were just not reported, and the reason given for Iraq's severence of relations with the western powers was simply that it was due to western support for Israel.

Tonight, however, *Izvestia* reported the charges in a dispatch from London, but they were immediately followed by a report about Mr. Wilson's denial of any participation in the war by British armed forces. No comment has been made on the Security Council resolution which has been reported in the press and radio. Nor has any explanation been offered for the fact that this resolution, supported by the Soviet delegation, did not include the conditions about withdrawal to earlier positions.

This was contained in the Soviet Government's statement on the Middle East crisis printed on the front page of *Pravda* yesterday. This morning's Soviet reticence about the Arab claims of western participation shows that Moscow is now unwilling to give unquestioning support to the entire Arab platform.

Embarrassed silence

The Russian Government's failure to report to its people that Cairo was also refusing to obey the cease-fire resolution shows concern that the enormously expensive military and economic aid programmes to Egypt have not given the Kremlin greater influence with President Nasser. Just as there may be some regrets in Washington that it was unable to restrain Israel from seeking a military solution, so here the silence about the Arab responses to the Security Council resolution agreed to by Russia must indicate a certain embarrassment.

Even the English language service of Tass preferred to cite evidence of continuing Israel violation of the resolution rather than report the full Israel statement which referred to Egypt's position on the resolution. The fact of the matter is that, by defying the resolution agreed to by the great powers, Egypt was defying Moscow just as Israel was defying Washington.

Although the Security Council resolution was the product of Soviet-American mutual interest, the Vietnam war continues to keep relations between the two countries at their lowest ebb for some time. Soviet frustration about south-east Asia and what the Russians see to be consistent intransigence by the United States colours their thinking on other aspects of Soviet-American relations and makes them anticipate the worst in Svetlana Stalin's forthcoming book.

The *Literary Gazette* today alleged that Svetlana was a "daughter who traded her father's name for six-figure sums and a mother who had exchanged her children for a car and dog".

Peking mob's attack

PEKING, JUNE 7

Chinese and foreign demonstrators smashed their way into the British diplomatic mission in Peking today and tussled with British diplomatists during protests over the Middle East war.

A crowd of about 100 tore down the Union Jack and ripped it to shreds before smashing the locked door of the mission and entering the ground floor.

The mission's two First Secretaries, Mr. Anthony Blishen and Mr. Raymond Whitney, were punched.

The Third Secretary, Mr. Leonard Appleyard, and the wife of Mr. Blishen, who left the compound before the crowd broke in, were punched and harried by angry crowds outside for several minutes. None of the mission staff was injured.

An immediate protest was made by telephone to the Foreign Ministry about the incident, but a protocol official replied that the action was entirely justified.

Columns of demonstrators, probably amounting to several hundred thousand persons, surged past the office of the British Chargé d'Affaires during the day.

Russian Pressure On Israel.
From KYRIL TIDMARSH

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 08, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56962.

Category: News

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Urgent examination of root causes in Middle East conflict: Arabs asked to drop hostility to UK

MR. GEORGE BROWN, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in a statement on the situation in the Middle East, said the House would have heard with satisfaction that the Security Council of the United Nations had adopted unanimously a resolution calling for a cease-fire. (Cheers.) In this the House could take pride in the outstanding contribution made by Lord Caradon in bringing about this result.

The council's most urgent task would now be to get this resolution implemented. He was glad to see that the Israel Foreign Minister yesterday evening welcomed the appeal for the cease-fire, while pointing out that this implementation required an absolute and sincere acceptance and cooperation of all other parties.

It is now for the other parties (he said) to make equally clear their acceptance of the call for the cease-fire so that this could come into force without any delay. I have seen reports that the United Arab Republic and Iraq have rejected the appeal. I hope they will think better of this very quickly. It seems to be much in their own interests to do so. (Laughter.)

Once the cease-fire had been implemented the Security Council would need to turn its most urgent attention to the further steps that were needed to secure a lasting peace in the area. It was too early to speculate in detail about the form that this might take, but he was convinced that there would have to be a thorough re-examination of all aspects of the root causes of the conflict.

Alibi for failure

It was now very clear that the military struggle had been going in favour of Israel. (Some cheers.) The United Arab Republic, through Cairo Radio (he continued) have continued to broadcast the downright lie that British and American air forces have taken part in the fighting on the side of Israel. I repeat that this is a lie. It not only did not happen, but it could not have happened, as they well know.

In the light of the military situation the reason for this lie is quite clear. The United Arab Republic is trying to give itself an alibi for its own military failures and the extent to which its failures have let down its allies.

The Government have taken every step open to them to deny this action.

The United States delegate to the United Nations yesterday offered facilities for United Nations observers to visit ships of the American Sixth Fleet to check the falsity of the story. I am equally ready to make a similar offer for United Nations observers to visit any of our ships in the area and any of our Royal Air Force stations, including those at Cyprus and our installation at the airfield at Malta. We wish to nail this lie once and for all. (Cheers.)

Measures against Britain

I am sorry to report that the broadcasting of this lie has misled certain Arab countries into taking a series of measures against Britain.

British embassies and consulates and British Council premises have been attacked and damaged in many Arab cities. The United Arab Republic Government have closed the Suez Canal to all traffic.

The Governments of Iraq, Kuwait, Algeria, Syria, and Lebanon have taken steps to interfere with oil supplies, either to the United Kingdom and United States only, or in some cases on a wider basis. The Governments of Iraq, Syria, and Sudan have notified us that they are breaking off diplomatic relations; relations were of course already broken with the United Arab Republic and Algeria.

It is my sincere hope these Governments will reverse their attitude now that it is clear not only that the allegation was a lie, but it is also clear what the motives of the Egyptians have been in propagating it.

Nevertheless, the Government are having to make suitable arrangements for the protection of British interests if the countries concerned persist in breaches of diplomatic relations. We are in touch with appropriate Governments to act as protecting powers.

'Face the consequences'

The breaking off of diplomatic relations with us, and for this reason, is the most foolish possible action these Governments could take. This has been put to them as forcibly as possible. If they insist, they will have to face the consequences.

Arrangements are also going ahead to evacuate further numbers of British subjects from countries involved in the fighting and from countries which have broken off diplomatic relations. However, some of these cases of breach of diplomatic relations will presumably not extend to commercial relations, and I would expect that, where there is no immediate danger to life and property, many British subjects will still wish to remain.

Urgent steps are being taken to readjust the pattern of oil supplies to this country. While there may well be temporary inconveniences for us, there should be no insurmountable problem. The action taken against us has come at a time of oil surplus in the world, and the countries which have taken it may find that they have done their own economic interests much greater harm than they have done to ours. (Cheers.)

Arms ban difficulty

On the question of arms shipments, we are continuing our efforts to achieve a suspension of the export of all arms supplies to this area, and the call for a cease-fire reinforces the position we have taken on this.

However, I am bound to warn the House the situation at the moment is that we have had no positive response from the Russians, and we understand the Americans are not placing an embargo. In this situation it makes it very difficult for Britain to maintain the suspension of supplies which we have already unilaterally imposed.

In any long-term agreement which is negotiated limitation and control over arms exports into the area will clearly be a very important factor.

Opposition support

SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME (Kinross and West Perthshire, C.) said the Opposition welcomed the achievement by the Security Council of unanimity on a cease-fire. It was a modest beginning, but one on which they could build.

We will give the Foreign Secretary all the help we can (he said) to obtain a comprehensive settlement of all the problems in the Middle East. This seems to be the most important thing ahead of us.

We have noted what Mr. Brown said about the arms embargo. We will not press him further today, but I am sure he realizes the seriousness of the United Kingdom withholding arms if everyone else is sending them.

MR. BROWN.—We are giving careful thought to the kind of items which would figure in a comprehensive settlement. There will no doubt be some opportunity to discuss this in the House. The immediate thing is to get a cease-fire, and then to move beyond there.

On arms, I take note of what the right hon. gentleman has said. I worded that passage in my statement very carefully.

UN authority

MR. THORPE (North Devon, L.).—The success in obtaining the cease-fire will not only be welcomed for its own sake but for helping to restore the authority of the United Nations. (Some laughter and cries of "Oh.")

Is the Foreign Secretary satisfied that this will be transmitted to the combatants in the field, as opposed to those in control of the governments? Is Colonel Nasser still in effective control of the Government of Egypt?

MR. BROWN.—I deplore this tendency to giggle when the question of the United Nations authority is discussed. (Cheers.) When this Middle East situation has become just one more event in history, the creation and building of United Nations authority will still be the aim of any intelligent, rational government anywhere in the world. (Renewed cheers.)

I agree that getting the resolution passed is important for its own sake but it is also important as being a step back from the miserable period of the United Nations which has marked the last few weeks.

It is certainly being transmitted to those in authority who can make the decisions. I have no reason to think they do not know about it.

Whether President Nasser is in command, I have no evidence to the contrary—none at all.

Mr Shinwell's outburst

MR. SHINWELL (Easington, Lab.).—Can the Government now depart at least to some extent from their attitude of neutrality by congratulating the State of Israel and the Israeli forces—(Labour cries of "Oh" and "Really")—on having successfully resisted—(a Labour member: "Conducted a preemptive strike")—the threat of annihilation. Will the Government not go to that extent? (A shout of "No.")

If the Foreign Secretary is relying on the United Nations in future to ensure a satisfactory permanent settlement, can we have an assurance that as far as the British Government's representation is concerned there will be guarantees to protect the economy of the State of Israel from economic boycott, and free passage through international waters, including the Suez Canal?

Will the Foreign Secretary take it from me—(cries of "No")—that murmurs behind me have no effect on my mind whatever. I am not afraid of this. I am not afraid of Arabs and Nassers . . . . .'

Shouting above the noise, and repeated calls from the Speaker for order, he went on: I am not afraid of any of them. I take sides. They can go to hell.

Making things worse

MR. BROWN.—Unlike my right hon. friend, who is not carrying responsibility and is in the happy position of being able to take sides, I am quite clear that were I to make use of the statements he has invited me to make, I would make the situation worse—(Cheers)—and hamper the working out of a settlement, and do the cause which he has at heart as much harm as it would do any other cause. (Renewed cheers.)

This is not a situation in which you can say all the rights and merits are on one side and one side only. (Cheers.)

If I am asked to make a partisan statement in the House on behalf of one side—in this case Israel—let us recognize that the Arabs also have cases and issues to deploy which they are entitled to expect to be heard and treated with respect. (Renewed cheers.)

All of these things will be taken into account. That is why I said in my statement that in the settlement we must have a good look at the fundamental, root causes of the conflict.

We have had this twice in a decade, I believe it will be the business of those who carry responsibility, and also of those who support us, to try and work out this time a settlement which will ensure we do not have it a third time. (Cheers.)

MR. SANDYS (Streatham, C.) asked if Mr. Brown would begin to initiate action to secure the setting up of some kind of international force which could police the cease-fire when it took effect; and if he could say what was being done to secure the re-opening of the Suez Canal.

MR. BROWN.—The establishment of anything in the nature of a permanent United Nations force must be one of the aspects of a long-term settlement, but getting the cease-fire is the important thing.

It may well be that if we can ensure the cease-fire, the Secretary General, or a very prominent representative of his, might well help by proceeding immediately to the area to ensure that what is said to be going on is in fact going on. Thereafter we can discuss what kind of continuing force.

The right hon. gentleman has a passionate desire about opening the Suez Canal. I am never very clear how he envisages doing it. I can only say that I envisage doing it by getting a cease-fire and then by proceeding to negotiate a settlement of the whole area.

Arab response invited

MR. LAWSON (Motherwell, Lab.).—Perhaps the worst thing that can happen to any people is the feeling of national humiliation. (Labour interruptions.) Will the Foreign Secretary be most sympathetic in this case, and do his utmost to show that we are genuinely neutral and wish to be friendly to the Arab people as well as others? (Renewed interruptions.)

Will he also recognize that the Arab people have a genuine grievance and try his utmost to heal the sores that exist in this part of the world? (Cheers and counter-cheers.)

MR. BROWN.—This is exactly what I am afraid of. One overstated, emotional, partisan statement invites the contrary.

MR. RANKIN (Glasgow, Govan, Lab.), calling attention to some heated exchanges that were going on behind him between Mr. Shinwell and other members said: War has broken out in my immediate neighbourhood. (Laughter). May I ask the Foreign Secretary to tell us what he proposes to do to stop the war in this House.

The SPEAKER.—There are widely differing points of view inside, probably, a fundamental unity. Noise and heat do not help. (Cheers.)

MR. BROWN.—May I remind everybody that not only vast issues but people's lives are at stake.

On the question of humiliation, I understand this very well. The sense of humiliation since 1956 has no doubt been a factor—I will not put it any higher—in what has now happened. I have that very much in mind. So far as being friendly to the Arab people and to Arab statesmen is concerned, I have as good a record as anybody. They well know it. I ask them to respond to it.

MR. ST. JOHN-STEVAS (Chelmsford, C.).—Will the Foreign Secretary assure the House that the Government will do nothing to deprive Israel of the legitimate fruits of victory, and that much less will they do anything to prevent the fate overtaking Nasser which seems likely to reach him in the near future?

MR. BROWN.—I am sorry. I will not say anything of the kind (Cheers and interruptions.) On reflection even the hon. member will think that it would have been better if he had not said it.

US relations with Russia

MR. TUCK (Watford, Lab.).—When the Foreign Secretary looks at the root causes, as he calls them, will he look at the sale early last year of £107m. worth of arms to Saudi Arabia and consider whether this was not a cause of the intensification of the arms race in the Middle East?

MR. BROWN.—We have a better record than most in ensuring that by any supplies which we have sold we have kept the balance of power very much in mind. The balance of power, and maybe this conflict, owes a good deal more to the lack of concern which some other nations have shown in their supplies to the area.

MR. WOODNUTT Isle of Wight, C.) asked for an assurance that in the event of a run on sterling the Government would have no hesitation in freezing the balances of the countries concerned.

MR. BROWN.—I am sure that that was well meant, but it could hardly be more damaging. The £ today is running very strongly. There is therefore no need for anyone to get into any kind of panic or to make this kind of suggestion. We do not need that kind of support.

MR. FRANCIS NOEL-BAKER (Swindon, Lab.).—Among the major root causes of the conflict in the Middle East, is not the war in Vietnam and bad relations between the Soviet Union and the United States an important factor?

MR. BROWN.—When I came back from Moscow I did not have the impression that any differences about Vietnam were being allowed to cloud the mind of the Russians about the clear undesirability of having a conflagration in the Middle East in addition to the one in South-East Asia.

I see no reason to believe that Vietnam has had anything to do with this conflagration arising, although it may have had something to do with the passing of a cease-fire resolution in the United Nations.

Urgent examination of root causes in Middle East conflict: Arabs asked to drop hostility to UK.
The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 08, 1967; pg. 7; Issue 56962.

Category: Politics and Parliament

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Middle East war

The clash of big-power interests behind the battlefronts in Sinai

From LOUIS HEREN, Washington, June 7

One of the Arab representatives in the Security Council last night said that the cease-fire resolution amounted to abject surrender to Israel. He missed the point. The resolution was a sign that the two super-powers had decided that they were not going to get involved, and wanted to stop the fighting before the balance of power in the Middle East was subjected to greater strain than local conflict.

The United States and the Soviet Union made up their minds before the fighting began. There were exchanges between President Johnson and Mr. Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, who very early said that he had a firm interest in maintaining peace. Discussions subsequently followed at the embassy level.

Thus this was not another example of parallelism, the term used here when the policies of the super-powers are similar or parallel and there is little or no need for active cooperation or discussion.

Suspicions remained

Indeed, the continuing Russian propaganda campaign against Israel and the so-called imperialists revealed the inner but lesser super-power conflict.

It was not resolved by last night's Security Council resolution nor by the earlier Soviet-American exchanges. The two countries remained suspicious of each other throughout, and the attendant apprehension caused Mr. Rusk, the Secretary of State, to deny very sharply Egyptian charges of American involvement.

A further reason for Mr. Rusk's sharp and immediate denial, and for another layer of American apprehension, was the belief that Moscow's collective leadership is ill-suited for the quick decisions of crisis management. If the leadership had been persuaded of United States involvement it might have taken measures which would not have been easy to reverse quickly, as Mr. Khrushchev reversed himself in the Cuban missile crisis.

For Americans trained in the war games theory this is a very bad thing indeed. It changes the method of play and perhaps the rules, but this is a problem for the future. No doubt the nuclear theoreticians are working on it now, but the Russians remain involved in the Middle East and this the Americans, and Israelis, will have to live with. The Americans, at least, believe that they can live with it.

As seen from here, the Russians are believed to have considerable doubts about President Nasser and his dreams of Arab unity. Pan-Arabism promises little or no profit for them, and the general Arab incapacity for ideology diminishes any hope of an eventual triumph of communism.

Soviet Middle East policy since the early nineteen-fifties is described as a spoiling action. It is to reduce western influence by siding with the Arabs. If this American appreciation is correct, there is no suggestion of a Soviet master plan to seize power.

Package deal

United States policy is fundamentally the maintenance of the status quo, including the survival of Israel, access to and from the oilfields, and the freedom of trade and navigation. To that extent the two policies are limited.

There is not a dangerous conflict, as the decisions not to become involved in the Arab-Israel hostilities helped to prove. An escalation is not expected, but a conflict remains and it will bedevil future attempts to negotiate a peaceful settlement of most long-standing Middle East problems.

In the circumstances there are perhaps many people who believe that a package deal comprising settlements for the Middle East and Vietnam is the only solution. Its simplicity is attractive, but very few in positions of authority here regard it as practical.

This is not to say that President Johnson would not accept a package, but only that it is not seen to be necessary or feasible. Certainly the Russians agreed to a Middle East cease-fire while the battle continued to rage in Vietnam.

This is the American view, and clearly it cannot be dismissed. Moreover, official thinking here is not nearly as narrow as some would appear to suppose. It goes something like this.

The degree of active super-power involvement is much greater in Vietnam than in the Middle East. American arms are heavily committed, and Vietnam is an important locus of the Sino-Soviet conflict.

A North Vietnam victory, or a settlement advantageous for Hanoi, would be a victory for China. The belief that Ho Chi Minh or his successors would move towards Titoism is not shared by Moscow.

The conclusion here is that the Soviet Union hopes for an eventual stand-off, and meanwhile is content to see the United States so involved and preoccupied. The war can continue, as long as it is not escalated.

That is one side of the suggested package, and the Middle East side is no brighter.

Spoiling operation

For the past decade and more, the situation there has provided the Soviet Union sufficient scope for reducing western influence, and this will continue while the United States is coupled with Israel. It is ideal for a spoiling operation.

In any event, the Russians would not restrain the Arabs in return for American restraint in Vietnam. They would be rebuffed, and lose much of their recent gains.

This is the American view, and it seems to make sense. It does not promise any quick way out in the Middle East and Vietnam, but it is as well perhaps to be realistic. Both situations are bad enough without what many Americans would dismiss as fantasy.

Fierce battles still raging

From NORMAN FOWLER, Beirut, June 7

Fierce battles between the troops of Egypt and Jordan and Israel forces were still raging today, according to reports reaching here. Both Egypt and Jordan announced that the fighting was taking place in new positions.

In an official announcement the Egyptian High Command announced that they had evacuated some of their first lines and were now fighting severe battles on second lines.

A communiqué broadcast over Cairo radio said that the withdrawal took place in view of "continuous air raids in which foreign planes took part". This means intervention by the United States and Britain, which is accepted as true by ordinary people in Beirut.

The Jordan Army Command also announced that fierce battles were still raging with Israel forces, in spite of reports that Jordan was prepared to accept the United Nations cease-fire resolution passed on Tuesday night.

The Jordan communiqué said that they had evacuated some front line posts but that the fighting was now fierce in the new positions. Armoured units were taking part in the fresh battles.

The Jordan communiqué said: "Our forces are fighting with rare gallantry in spite of the enemy's air superiority". The second line of defence was being retained and heavy casualties had been inflicted upon the Israelis. A total of 26 Israel aircraft were said shot down by the Jordan and Iraq forces.

The clash of big-power interests behind the battlefronts in Sinai.
From LOUIS HEREN

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 08, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56962.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS167996616



Three MiG fighters of the Egyptian Air Force lie badly damaged on the ground after an Israel air attack.—Official Israel Air Force photograph.

Gen Dayan's masterpiece of mechanized war

By DAVID DIVINE, Defence Correspondent of The Sunday Times

The speed and sweep of the Israel armour across the Sinai desert has already placed this campaign of hours among the masterpieces of mechanized war. Where in 1956 General Dayan contemplated the possibility of 10 harsh days—and achieved his target in six—he has this time reached the tip of the peninsula in little more that 50 hours.

The Gulf of Aqaba is open, the Israel armour is on the edge of the Canal Zone, the Gaza strip is captured, Jerusalem is in Israel hands and the Syrians are held.

Tactically everything has hinged upon the single devastating air attack in the early hours of Monday. It has given to General Dayan the three vital freedoms of war—freedom of choice, freedom of movement and freedom from the threat to the home front.

The bombing that was threatened vociferously in the Arab propaganda has nowhere materialized, the vulnerable interior communications of the narrow Israel heartland are unimpaired, and it has been possible to execute immaculately prepared contingency plans almost in the manner of exercises.

Copybook capture

The results are everywhere apparent. First the Gaza strip, taken by quick thrusts on either side of the main populated areas, then the rapid riposte to the threat to Jerusalem, the copybook seizure of Latrun, the domination of the north Jordan road network and finally the sharp reaction of local defences to Syrian pressure.

With his rear secure long before the earliest time that even optimism could have suggested, General Dayan has patently been free to accelerate his main thrust across the Sinai to a level at which only the most masterful planning can possibly have provided supply. Again, though no details are yet available, it is clear that the first day air triumph has dictated the entire course of the battle.

Painful experience of the loss of air domination in periods of Britain's own desert battles has provided a background of knowledge of the predicament of armour exposed without air support. The Egyptian morale has at no time in the recent past suggested a patient endurance of ruthless air attack, pressed closely home. Nor is it likely that supply could be long maintained by thin skinned vehicles in the circumstances which have clearly developed.

The Israel attack, on the other hand, has been immeasurably assisted by the possibilities of unimpeded reconnaissance, by the operation of light spotter aircraft in which they have in the past shown a high skill, and finally in massive attacks on armoured vehicles and ground positions executed by pilots unhampered by the necessity to look over their shoulders.

Good troops are liable to crack under such conditions. The Egyptian Army is not composed of good troops. The indeterminate and profitless campaign of the Yemen is believed to have drawn out some 50,000 of the best that were available, but real quality both in training and in combat capability in the hard terms of armoured warfare has never been apparent in any areas of the Army.

The main attack has been in a sense predictable. Whether in less favourable circumstances General Dayan would have felt free to use all of the three main approaches to the Suez zone is open to argument. In other circumstances he might have felt obliged to draw part at least of the Egyptian forces to one road while exploiting the other two. In fact he appears to have gone flat out down all three after the initial breakthrough at El Arish.

Doubtful reserve

His use of parachutists to take Sharm el Shaikh has an air of panache about it. The Israel parachute attack in 1956 was less than successful. Yesterday the parachutists drove the door keepers of the debated gulf headlong from their positions—the Egyptian communiqué tacitly admits it—and established the symbolic victory necessary to the political character of the campaign. There remains only the possibility of Egyptian counter-action.

It is reported that an airlift of sorts has begun from the Yemen. Precisely what is likely to be achieved by the transport of men, without equipment, and campaign weary from a war of indecision and futility, it is difficult to anticipate.

That there is a reserve in Egypt proper is of course certain. That it is an effective reserve is on the other hand at least doubtful. How effective it can be with its deployment watched, and its transport attacked without air cover remains to be seen.

Gen Dayan's masterpiece of mechanized war.
By DAVID DIVINE

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 08, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56962.

Category: News

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TIMES PAST

THE TIMES

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OUTRIGHT VICTOR

In a three-day campaign the Israelis have done much more than defeat the enemies who were massing on their frontiers. They have altered the power balance in the Middle East for a long time to come, and no government will be able to ignore this fact. The combination of technical skill and superb morale shown by Israel's forces has been invincible. Egypt had weapons at least as good, and the morale of Jordan's Army has always been high. But these by themselves have been no use.

The nearest countries now left with armed forces to compare with Israel's are Turkey and Pakistan. In the Arab world the Algerians are still the only ones who have shown that they can fight and win a war. It was a guerrilla war, to which the Arabs are more suited. But nowhere else have they tried to fight in this way. Like the European states facing NAPOLEON, the Arabs have from time to time formed alliances which looked, on paper, more than enough to ensure victory. But, like Austria, Prussia, and Russia, they have always been defeated by a thrusting, mobile enemy.

In the old days a country with Israel's proved military superiority would have been rewarded with political domination over its neighbours. In the present circumstances there is no chance of that happening. The Jewish empire stretching from the Nile to the Euphrates, which many Arabs feared, is not practical politics.

One of the many facts which the big powers have to face is that the old policy of preserving a theoretical balance of power in the Middle East by the delivery of arms to both sides has been proved nonsense. It never had more than expediency to recommend it, and as the pile-up of more and more arms proceeded it simply helped to produce the situation which exploded at the weekend.

There is a lesson here which has an application wider than the Middle East. The modern arms produced by countries like America and Russia need a technological base to support them which only Israel, in this particular area, possesses. This is a lesson which presumably will not be lost on either the suppliers or receivers of arms. It is difficult to imagine that in future Arab—or African and Asian—crowds watching the tanks and missiles rumble in review will find as much comfort in the sight as they have done in the past. It is also difficult to suppose that the west or Russia will go on cheerfully sending the stuff in on demand.

If future peace in the Middle East is not going to depend on an Israel hegemony, or on an arms balance regulated from outside, where can it lie? Thoughts turn bleakly towards the United Nations. It had been continually behind events, until the moment on Tuesday night when it agreed to a call for a cease-fire. This was followed up by another resolution yesterday—tougher but still unanimous—setting a time-limit for the cease-fire. Russia's part in all this is still not clear. Of course the Russians see the resolutions directed primarily at Israel, but the Arabs are not going to be convinced that this was the sort of Russian backing they had been led to expect. It look more like the first recognition by Russia that a new power situation has arisen in the area, and that this is going to mean a drastic reconsideration of Russian policy there.

It is only if the Russians, together with the Americans and more or less everyone else, agree that their recent policies in the Middle East have been shown up as bankrupt that there could be a chance for the U.N. The Israelis probably realize that they have had their private war, and that what happens from now on is going to be a public matter. They have rushed their troops ahead as fast as possible to mop up all the territory they can, in order to be in as strong a bargaining position as possible. Presumably this bargaining will have to take place in some U.N. framework, and its consequence ought to be a continued U.N. involvement in the Middle East. It would be comforting to think that the present unanimity in the Security Council set a precedent.

Outright Victor.
The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 08, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56962.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS184773832

Can Israel win the peace?

By Elizabeth Monroe

A week ago the task of fighting all the Arabs at once looked a stiff one for Israel. This week the task of winning the peace looks stiffer still. In the short run, military success will yield some results valuable enough to compensate for the casualty lists; of these results the most important will be the opening of the sea and air route south from the Strait of Tiran—that is, security for Israel's mounting trade with Asia and East Africa. But in the long run the fruits of total victory will be difficult to husband, let alone to gather.

Israel's biggest long-term problem is how to relieve the state of mind bred by insulation from all its neighbours. The biggest chink in the armour of its nationhood is lack of opportunity for rubbing shoulders with the man next door, and gaining some first-hand notion of outlooks different from its own. Those of us who constantly meet Israeli diplomatists and professors, salesmen and picked students are apt to forget that the majority of Israelis under 35 have never (apart perhaps from a childhood in their country of origin) been outside the narrow limits of their state. Most would like to go, but have been balked not merely by the closed frontiers at their gate but by shortage of funds or foreign exchange. The pain of confinement will be mitigated by this week's rousing display of courage and self-sufficiency, but satisfying as this is to morale, it does nothing to widen the horizons of a nation of poor mixers.

FAILURE INCREDIBLE

In political Arabic the key word is dignity. Throughout the present century indignity has been the Arab lot, foisted on successive generations—first by the Young Turks, then by the British and French, thanks to the asset of sheer might, and now, three times in 20 years, by the armed forces of Israel.

Yet Arabs and Egyptians continue to feel that if they rub the bottle dignity ought to well out of it, stemming either from their one time greatness or their key geographical site or their control of a major raw material, or all three. That is why, when dignity collapses on account of their own political or military miscalculations, they cannot credit the reasons for failure and have to blame some scapegoat; this time it is Britain and America; next time, who knows, it may be the Soviet Union. They are likewise unready to admit that their latest disquieting plunge from the heights of last week's unity into the depths of this week's humiliation is in part due to the nature of their language, which lends itself to hyperbole and inflammatory exaggeration in a degree that can perhaps best be measured by comparing Italian with English in this respect, and then multiplying the results at least fivefold.

When to these shortcomings is added their chagrin that verbal Soviet encouragement proved just as insubstantial as some of their fathers found British encouragement it is plain that Israel's need and desire to create some reasonable relation with them becomes harder to fulfil than ever before. Many Israelis know this, particularly the minority who keep a thumb on the world's pulse, among whom must be counted the present Prime Minister, Mr. Levi Eshkol.

MISTRUST CAUSED

Can outsiders help? No individual great power could do so. All the four that have dabbled in Middle East politics—Britain, France, the United States, the Soviet Union—have acted so deviously as to generate either or both Arab and Israeli mistrust of their motives.

Take the Soviet Union: in 1947 it voted for the partition of Palestine and tumbled over itself in its effort to recognize Israel ahead of President Truman, with intent to create a bone of contention between Israel and the United States. In 1951 it cast its veto in the Security Council in favour of pressure on Egypt to open the Suez Canal to Israel shipping. But by March, 1954, it was vetoing a repeat of this same resolution, having by then decided, for its own purposes, to switch to winning Arab support. Since then it has curried Arab favour by supplying selected Arab states with armament.

But the records of its fellow powers are no better. Take France, which fought on Israel's side for ends connected with the Algerian war in 1956, but in 1967 prefers to call itself neutral, partly in order to keep on the right side of its ex-dependencies in Arabic speaking North Africa. Or take the United States, which served as principal midwife at the birth of Israel in 1947, then properly enough switched to castigating it for aggression in 1956, but by 1957 had lost the credit thereby gained among the Arab states by trying, *against* its own purposes, to enlist them in its cold war against Russia. Similarly, take its assurance on the palmy days of early 1957 of intention to maintain "free and innocent passage" for shipping through the Strait of Tiran, only to do nothing when the crunch came 10 years later. Or take Britain, with its two famous blots on its reputation for honesty in the Middle East—the first its conflicting promises of the years 1915-18 and the second the lies told during the Suez adventure of 1956.

Or, indeed, take the three western powers combined, with their Tripartite Declaration of 1950 proclaiming their "unalterable opposition" to the use of force by either Arab or Israeli; this looks like the scrap of paper that it always was when set against their declared neutrality in June, 1967. The act of all four has been governed by their individual power politics or internal politics. Not one of them can afford to strike a righteous attitude and no one in the Middle East can count on any one of them.

The best veil that can be drawn over four self-interested policies is that of the Security Council. Here, at last, unanimity between the four of them was attained on Tuesday. Though it was achieved only at a milk and water level it was at least an opening stage, and had the advantage that it will reveal the first of the four to crack the unanimity to be reverting to power politics.

But, though unanimous, what can the Council do? Speculation is risky so long as the guns are still firing, and no one knows which Governments and frontiers will stand or fall under the strain of war. Yet some constant factors are worth review. Ought the Security Council to try for unanimity on the various abortive recommendations that it made 10 to 15 years ago—that the Arab refugees should return to their homes, that Jerusalem should be internationalized, that Israel's shipping should pass freely through the Suez Canal, or that frontier adjustments on a barter basis should be made in order to iron out inconveniences on both sides of the line.

UNIFIED ACTION

All these have come to nothing. Some are out of date, and in any case the acceptance or rejection of Security Council resolutions really hangs not on the voting countries but on Israel. Since the great powers held off during the fight, why should they imagine that they hold the power or the right to impose any part of the peace?

Yet if they act together and in the name of the Security Council, they have one function they could usefully fulfil. They have it in their power to create a climate in which the Israeli victor, with whom the initiative must surely lie, can consider whether and when to sacrifice some of its self-sufficiency with a view ultimately to mitigating the curse under which it suffers—the curse of isolation from the rest of the Middle Eastern states.

Naturally no gesture on Israel's part will be tolerable to any Arab leader while each is smarting from the effect of defeat. For the present Israel's only course is to hope that outsiders will hold the ring while passions cool and Arabs recover some poise. The ring that the United Nations held from 1957 to 1967 proved inadequate in that a token force which held it operated by consent only of one side—Egypt. If there is to be a new U.N.E.F. capable not only of reopening the Straits of Tiran but of maintaining border quiet it must operate on both sides of the border line. The Security Council must, not only in its own interests but ultimately in those of Israel, ask the victor for the minor sacrifice of sovereignty that the Israelis refused to make 10 years ago.

If the great powers retain enough unity to take the second step they will need to leave the next stages to time and to Israel, for, even if each of the four in the future refrain from self-interested interference, their various machinations in the past have left legacies too complicated for them to administer. For historical reasons that they made, but cannot unmake, the international pattern in the Middle East is the most awkward in the world. They talk of seeking a "just solution", but the pattern is so awkward that it admits of none. It is like a garment that the tailor cut out wrong—a British tailor in the first place, Russo-American alterations experts in 1947-48. Between them these cut it out so badly that no amount of foreign gusseting will put it right, and a misfit it will remain until Israel feels a need to alter it.

Can Israel win the peace?.
By Elizabeth Monroe

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 08, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56962.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS186084552

EGYPT ACCEPTS CEASE-FIRE

UN ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE BY U THANT

Syria also agrees to stop

Egypt last night agreed to a cease-fire in the war with Israel, conditional on Israel's acceptance. The announcement was read to the United Nations Security Council meeting by U Thant, the Secretary-General.



U Thant, the Secretary-General, announcing to the United Nations Security Council that Egypt had accepted a cease-fire.

Early today Damascus radio announced that Syria had also accepted a cease-fire. The radio said that U Thant had been informed of Syria's acceptance.

Last night U Thant read a note from the Egyptian delegation, addressed to himself, only a few minutes after the council had convened in emergency session.

The acceptance meant that both Egypt and Israel had agreed to a cease-fire, and Mr. Abba Eban, the Israel Foreign Minister, said that it raised the "immediate prospect" of an end of hostilities.

The decision came after a day in which Egypt had claimed that its troops were on the offensive, attacking Israel tanks from the air and cutting off several armoured columns near the Mediterranean coast.

Israel said last night that the remnants of two Egyptian armoured divisions and four infantry divisions were trapped in the western Sinai desert, and all escape routes for armour were sealed off.

Soviet move to blame Israel

From ERIC BRITTER,
United Nations Correspondent

NEW YORK, JUNE 8

The Security Council, meeting again this afternoon—this time at the instance of the United States—was electrified to hear almost immediately that the United Arab Republic had decided to accept the cease-fire call in the Middle East war, provided that "the other party", meaning Israel, ceased firing.

This left the council ready to tackle the task of finding a lasting settlement of the underlying causes of the conflict. The fact that Syria, alone among the countries directly affected, is still committed to continuing hostilities clearly represents no serious threat to Israel. In other words, the war is virtually over.

However, there was today a break in the unanimity with which the council has hitherto acted in demanding a cease-fire. The United States and the Soviet Union have tabled two draft resolutions which make radically different approaches.

Condemnation sought

In addition, the council still has before it a Canadian draft.

While the American draft tries to hold the balance between the parties to the conflict and imputes no blame, the Soviet draft asks the council "vigorously to condemn Israel's aggressive activities" and "demand that Israel should immediately halt its military activities against neighbouring Arab states and remove all its troops from the territory of those states and withdraw them behind the armistice lines".

There is no indication at present whether either of these conflicting approaches is acceptable to the other side. It is difficult to see, for instance, how the United States could vote for a formula "vigorously condemning" Israel's "aggressive activity".

DAMASCUS INFORMS UN SECRETARY

From PETER HOPKIRK, Cairo, June 8

Cairo radio predicted that today would be the decisive day of the Sinai battle. It announced important Egyptian successes, including "grave losses" inflicted on Israel armoured forces which had tried to break out from behind El Arish.

"Our aircraft pursued the enemy, harassing them with rocket fire", an official communiqué said.

Several enemy armoured columns were later reported locked in between El Arish and the coast. The radio added that Israel armoured units had again attempted to infiltrate behind El Arish and surge forward along the coastal line. However, the Egyptian Air Force was wiping them out.

U S again accused

The radio also said that three United States aircraft had been identified flying over the Suez Canal from north to south, apparently on a reconnaissance.

Morale was raised considerably today when word got round that 4,500 Israel prisoners had arrived in Cairo.

BEIRUT, Friday morning.—Cairo radio today announced Egypt's acceptance at the United Nations of a cease-fire. It quoted U Thant as saying that he had been told by the Egyptian delegate of this acceptance.

Yesterday Damascus radio had stepped up its attacks on western leaders and exhorted Syrians to "march on the enemy and crush the imperialists".

Before announcing the Syrian agreement today, the radio announced Egypt's acceptance. It went on: "In view of the present situation, the Syrian republic has informed U Thant that she has decided to accept the Security Council's call for a cease-fire, provided the other party (Israel) does the same."

Tanks destroyed

TEL AVIV, June 8.—Israel claimed tonight that the remnants of two Egyptian armoured divisions and four infantry divisions were trapped in the western Sinai Desert after what a spokesman described as three of the fiercest armoured battles of the war. He said that by nightfall all escape routes for the Egyptian armour had been completely sealed off.

He claimed that at least 30 tanks were destroyed in one of the battles, in the El Nakhl-El-Thamed sector.

The spokesman said 20 Soviet-made Stalin-3 heavy tanks were destroyed in an armoured clash at Bir Gafgafa about 30 miles east of the Suez Canal, scene of a desperate Egyptian counter-attack this morning.

Other tanks were lost in fighting near Romani on the road to Qantara, 30 miles north of Ismailia.

Israel also claimed to have shot down eight Egyptian aircraft today, and scored hits on Soviet Sam-2 guided missiles sites in daylight raids on the canal zone.

On the Jordan front Israel was in control of the entire area stretching to the River Jordan, a spokesman said.

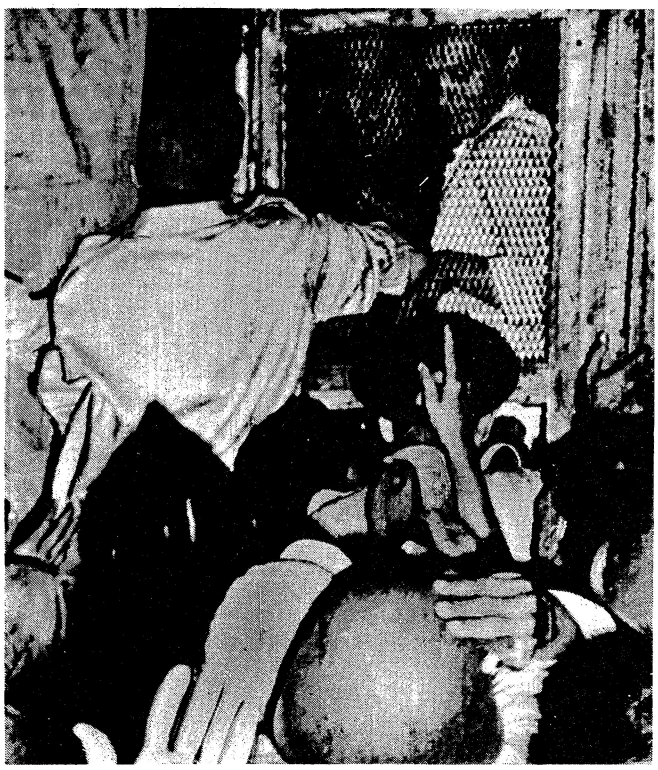
On the northern front, Syrians had heavily shelled Israeli settlements near Galilee and Israeli artillery and aircraft hit back.—*Reuter.*

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First 115 fly back from Beirut

The first 115 passengers to arrive in England from Beirut by air since the crisis arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, last night.

B.O.A.C. said three other flights with about 400 people from Beirut are expected to arrive at Gatwick today.



Crowds surge round Israel prisoners as they are loaded on to a caged vehicle on arrival at Cairo railway station from the battle front.

10 DEAD, 100 HURT IN US WARSHIP

Israel attacks by mistake

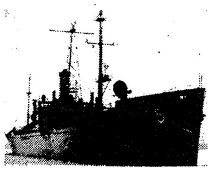
FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT—Washington, June 8

A United States naval communications ship, the Liberty, was accidentally attacked today by Israel torpedo boats and jet aircraft in the Mediterranean near the Egyptian coast, the Defence Department announced.

Ten Americans were killed and 100 wounded, 20 of them seriously, when the Liberty was hit by a torpedo. She was flying the United States flag at the time.

Israel had informed Washington that the attack was made "in error by Israel forces" and had apologized.

The Defence Department said the Liberty had arrived at her Middle East station today "to assure communications between United States Government posts in the Middle East and to assist in relaying information concerning the evacuation of American dependants".



The United States naval ship Liberty, which was attacked by Israel yesterday.

Ghost gang's £44,000 haul

A "ghost" gang climbed into a security van parked in a quiet London street yesterday and drove it off complete with its £44,000 load of cash.

Security Express, owners of the van, said: "Someone had a very good set of keys to do this job. We thought our system was first-class as the van was fully locked, alarmed and immobilized. We shall have to take another look at the procedure."

The 30cwt. green armoured van was parked in Carlow Street, Camden Town, while the driver and guard left to deliver a £2,500 wages bag to British Railways offices.

The vehicle was found abun-

Spain keeps Gibraltar flight ban

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

MADRID, FRIDAY MORNING

Last night's six-hour session in the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs ended in a breakdown of talks between Britain and Spain on the flying restrictions near Gibraltar imposed by General Franco's Government on May 15. Britain will now take her case to the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization. Appeal may then be made to an ad hoc arbitral tribunal or to the Court of International Justice.

Spain prolonged the talks tonight by insisting on her sovereign rights over the Gibraltar zone and Algeciras bay, but would not budge an inch on the question of flying restrictions over the zone prohibited to British aircraft taking tourists to Gibraltar. Spain's rigid attitude is not easy to understand in view of her great interest in foreign tourist traffic to the peninsula, including many British visitors.

The Spanish Government apparently intends to continue its policy of harassing if possible British civil aircraft on their way to Gibraltar.

'Attempt to kill U S envoy'

Egypt Accepts Cease-Fire.
From ERIC BRITTER, United Nations Correspondent

The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 09, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56963.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001673

King Husain tells of heavy losses

'Friends let Jordan down'

From NORMAN FOWLER, Beirut, June 8

King Husain of Jordan, explaining the decision to accept the Security Council's call for a cease-fire, said today that he was disappointed at the attitude of "certain friendly nations" which had let Jordan down.

Jordan troops had suffered only light casualties at the hands of Israel's land forces, but they had been subjected to tremendous air attacks. There had been day and night raids, and losses had been heavy.

"Up to now", the King told reporters in Amman, "we have tried to be responsive to the United Nations Security Council Resolution, but if the enemy decided to resume its aggression we should fight until the last soldier whatever the consequences. Our morale is high—either we live honourably or die honourably for the sake of our nation and rights."

The announcement that Jordan had accepted the United Nations cease-fire came over Amman radio. King Husain said that there had been only minor incidents since the 8 p.m. (G.M.T.) deadline. Jordan forces had been told to fire only in self-defence.

Damascus defiant

Earlier today, before Cairo's acceptance of the United Nations cease-fire call, Damascus radio said that the war was still at its beginning and would continue. "Victory will go to those who can withstand and throw into the battle new force every day."

There was a flurry of diplomatic activity in the Syrian capital today. Dr. Ibrahim Makhos, deputy Foreign Minister, met heads of Arab diplomatic missions, and later received the Soviet Ambassador. Envoys of other European socialist countries also called at the Ministry. Tonight there was no indication that Syria was ready to accept a cease-fire.

One of the more surprising features of the war seen from Beirut is that the clashes between Israel and Syria have not been on the same scale as the battle with Egypt and Jordan.

This afternoon seven cars carrying members of the embassy staff from Damascus arrived at the British Embassy here after Syria's decision to break off relations. In the party were several small children. The party is one of two leaving the Damascus Embassy. The other, which included Mr. Trefor Evans, the Ambassador, was escorted in a convoy to the Turkish border.

Members of the staff to whom I spoke said that there had been several daylight raids on Damascus airport. The aircraft—including two French Vautours—had been met by heavy fire from the ground and at least one had been shot down.

Mr. H. B. Walker, the head of chancery, told me that getting out had been fairly simple. The Syrians had arranged a special guard to the border and formalities had been reduced to a minimum. The embassy staff has now been completely evacuated with the exception of one man who is supervising the close-down.

Among the first luggage unloaded at the Embassy were 10 diplomatic bags from the Damascus Embassy. But the Embassy staff and their families had been forced to leave behind many of their personal possessions.

The first news of the evacuation had come on Tuesday night when the British Ambassador had been called to the Foreign Ministry. He had been told that the staff had 48 hours to leave Syria.

Embassy staff said that all the daylight raids had been on Monday. They started at about 2.30 and lasted intermittently for two and a half hours. Air raid precautions in Damascus seemed good with sirens blaring and anti-aircraft guns putting up heavy fire. Damage to Damascus airport was believed to have been heavy.

Syria expels two reporters

BEIRUT, June 8.—Two news agency reporters—Mr. Finlay Campbell (Regional News Services and Reuter) and Mr. David Lancashire (Associated Press of America)—who were expelled from Syria last night arrived at Shtora, Lebanon, today.

No reason was given for their expulsion. Syria severed diplomatic relations with the United States and Britain earlier this week.

Envoys expelled from Beirut

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

ATHENS, JUNE 8

The British and American Ambassadors in Beirut were asked by the Lebanese Government today to leave the country. They were notified that Lebanon had decided to limit the severance of relations with Britain and the United States to a withdrawal of Ambassadors.

It is not known here when Sir Derek Riches, the British Ambassador, will leave Beirut. Mr. Dwight Porter, the United States Ambassador, flew to Athens tonight.

The Greek cruise ship Carina (3,800 tons), which can accommodate 440 passengers in berths, left Piraeus tonight under charter from the United States State Department for Alexandria, to take on board several hundreds of Americans who were stranded there after receiving expulsion orders from Cairo.

King Husain tells of heavy losses.
From NORMAN FOWLER, Beirut, June 8

The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 09, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56963.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67333321

BRITAIN LIFTS BAN ON SUPPLY OF ARMS

Decision follows Moscow refusal

By DAVID WOOD, Political Correspondent

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Careful scrutiny

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The level of Russian arms supplies to Egypt in the days ahead will clearly be an important factor in the judgment that is made.

All applications from the Middle East will be carefully scrutinized at the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Defence and related to intelligence reports and to the known attitudes and intentions of the would-be buyers.

In practice, there is some reason to think that during the two-day suspension of shipments by Britain no cargoes were held up. It was rather a British gesture to set a lead in preparing the way for a general arms ban.

There may be a later phase of the war in which Mr. Brown will feel it worth while to make another attempt to get Russian and American support for a multilateral embargo. Led by Mr. Eric Heffer, a number of Labour backbenchers signed a motion last night urging the Government to propose a resolution to this end in the United Nations Security Council.

In the Commons Mr. Heath suggested that the four Powers must play a part in the settlement of the root problems that had disturbed the Middle East. He was implying that an enduring settlement will scarcely be possible in the acrimonious and competitive atmosphere of the United Nations, where everybody would take up prepared positions in public.

He has in mind a Geneva-type conference involving the contestants and Russia, the United States, France and Britain.

Fire ordeal of consuls

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

ANKARA, JUNE 8

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Soviet ship first into Gulf

EILAT, June 8.—A Soviet cargo ship bound for the Jordan port of Aqaba today became the first ship to pass through the Tiran Strait.

Surcharges on cargo

BY OUR SHIPPING CORRESPONDENT

Shipping lines plying regular trade routes out of Britain and Europe have put a 50 per cent surcharge on cargoes for Sudan, and 15 per cent on those for East Africa. They blame the "heavy increased cost of diverting ships round the Cape" and promise to review the position as soon as possible.

British Petroleum has chartered 20 tankers to move oil from the Persian Gulf over the next few weeks but charter rates remained steady.

Aden Britons wounded

ADEN, June 8.—A British soldier was wounded when a security patrol came under heavy automatic fire in the Sheikh Othman suburb of Aden today, a military official said.

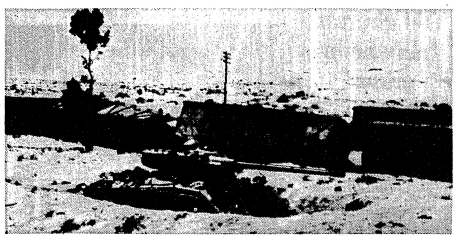
A Royal Marine commando man was slightly wounded last night when a gang of tribesmen attacked the home of the British Political Officer and a British camp at Dhala, about 90 miles north of here. —*Reuter.*

Britain Lifts Ban On Supply Of Arms.
By DAVID WOOD, Political Correspondent

The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 09, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56963.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67595465



The last train from Cairo, and an abandoned Egyptian tank after the Israel attack in the Sinai desert.

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Date omitted from Aden Bill

BY OUR POLITICAL STAFF

A statement on the Government's timetable for granting independence to Aden has been promised for next week in preparation for the second reading of the independence Bill which has been arranged for June 19.

Mr. Heath, Leader of the Opposition, insisted in the Commons yesterday that the House was entitled to a full statement of the Government's intentions in South Arabia before the Bill is considered. Such a statement was promised six weeks ago.

Called the Aden, Perim and Kuria Muria Islands Bill, it is an enabling measure. Although it makes consequential provisions for the relinquishment of sovereignty over the Aden territories, it does not name the independence date. The Government have never been tied down to a particular month, merely saying that it will be in 1968.

Answers hedged

Labour backbenchers expect it to be in the first half of the year, timed to coincide with the withdrawal of British forces from the Aden base. On this point, Mr. Healey, the Minister of Defence, has recently hedged his answers when Labour M.P.s have asked for a categorical assurance that the troops will be moved out. He has implied that although the Government remain committed to the withdrawal from the base there may not be a total removal of all troops on independence day.

The Conservatives are disturbed about the possible consequences of a British withdrawal and want more information about the military plans. They believe that a continued British military presence is essential in Aden during the present upheavals in the Middle East.

Legislative powers

Mr. Heath and his colleagues think it probable that President Nasser, thwarted in his grand strategy against Israel, may try to save face by stepping up subversion in South Arabia, preparing the way for a Flosy takeover when the British troops move out.

The Kuria Muria islands were ceded to the United Kingdom in 1854 by the Sultan of Oman so that a cable station could be built there. The islands are situated off the coast of Oman. At present the High Commissioner of Aden has legislative powers over the islands, but administration is carried out by the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Perim island is situated at the southern entrance to the Red Sea. It was first occupied by the French in 1738. In 1799 the British took formal possession but later evacuated it. It was reoccupied by the British in January, 1851, and was used as a coaling station.

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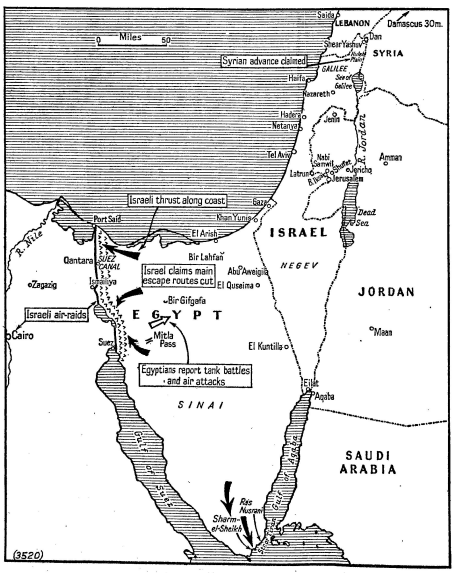
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POPE'S MESSAGE TO HEADS OF STATE

Appeal for negotiations

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—Rome, June 8

The Pope today sent a telegram appealing to the heads of state of Israel, Egypt, Iraq, Syria and Jordan to adhere to the United Nations cease-fire order. It read:—

"Moved by the duty of our ministry, and inspired by equal love and care for all people, anguished by the thought of suffering, of mourning, of the ruins that war wreaks on individuals, families and nations, we appeal to you, as we also do to the chiefs of the other countries engaged in the hostilities, and in the name of God we implore you to heed the request of the United Nations for the immediate cessation of hostilities, so that the violence of weapons can be substituted by trusting, reasonable and honourable negotiations.

"And so that greatly desired peace can be reestablished in those regions, we assure you of our invocation to the Omnipotent so that He will help you in your grave decisions and make you choose that way which merits the recognition of those who have humane feelings."

The Pope also made a contribution today to the appeal fund opened yesterday by Caritas Internationalis, the Roman Catholic international relief organization. He also sent a telegram to Mgr. J. Rhodain, the president of Caritas, expressing satisfaction over the news that the first-aid shipment had already left to be used in Jerusalem for war victims from both sides. The first aircraft load carried two tons of medical and sanitary materials.

This afternoon 120 people—principally Israelis and young Italian volunteers—left Rome by jet aircraft for Tel Aviv. Many of the Israelis were doctors returning to Israel from the United States and elsewhere.

Waving banners with slogans such as "Johnson and Wilson, war merchants", "There is no room in Arab countries for American and English", and "We will win the war", some 50 Libyan students demonstrated in and outside their Rome Embassy today.

Red Cross plane for Beirut

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

GENEVA, JUNE 8

A DC-4 aircraft bearing the Red Cross emblem was flying last night to Nicosia on its way to Beirut, with more than five tons of first-aid supplies, including plasma, surgical instruments and dressings.

The aircraft, belonging to a Swiss company, has been chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross. The medical supplies are the first special consignment provided by the committee and the League of Red Cross Societies, which has received urgent requests for aid from the national Red Crescent and Red Cross societies in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.

Travelling in the aircraft were five I.C.R.C. delegates, including M. Pierre Gayar, head of the committee's Middle East division, who have been assigned to the area of hostilities.

Britons flown out of Arab states

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

TEHERAN, JUNE 8

The last group of American and British evacuees from Arab capitals will arrive in Teheran by air early tomorrow when the 48-hour notice served on them by the Arab Government expires, their embassy officials here said today.

Iranian nationals in these countries also began arriving here today. About 200 Iranian students at Beirut were the first group to land at Mehrabad Airport. They said the Lebanese Government has served notice on all foreign nationals to leave the country within three days.

Several of the American officials and residents from Baghdad said last night that the evacuation was more of a precautionary measure than because a real danger was threatening them.

According to British and American Embassy sources about 1,000 evacuees are expected by tomorrow. They are coming from Baghdad, Dahran, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Some are reported already on the road from Baghdad to Teheran, a 20-hour drive.

War news surprise

A group of British nationals who arrived in Teheran and Abadan early today have already left for home. Those who remain will be housed in Embassy compounds or stay with friends or colleagues. The evacuees refused to make any statements to the press.

News of the Arab defeat by the Israel Army received big headlines —"Egypt collapses" and "Egypt beaten"—in the morning newspapers. It took the Iranian people by surprise, mixed with a feeling of sympathy for the Muslims. However, the evening papers made up for it by such headlines as "Counter attack launched by Arabs" and "For Arabs war just started"



General Munam Abdul Husaini, the Governor of the Gaza Strip, signing the surrender of the area.

HIGHLIGHTS OF EVENTS IN MIDDLE EAST

Egypt last night agreed to a cease-fire in the war with Israel, if Israel accepted. Early yesterday Israel offered to cease fire.

Egyptian forces returned to the offensive in Sinai yesterday. According to Israel they were making a desperate attempt to escape across the Suez Canal.

Other main points in reports on the Middle East war are:—

EGYPT.—"Grave losses" were inflicted on Israel forces near El Arish and nine aircraft were shot down in a raid on Cairo.—Page 1.

ISRAEL.—A "tape recording" was produced as evidence that Egypt and Jordan had agreed to blame British and American intervention for the Arab defeat.—Page 1.

JORDAN.—King Husain has accused friendly nations of letting Jordan down.

LEBANON.—The United States and British Ambassadors have been asked to leave the country.—Page 4.

IRAN.—American and British evacuees from the Middle East are arriving in Teheran.—Page 4.

BETHLEHEM.—Nicholas Herbert reports the scene after the Israel occupation.—Page 10.

TEL AVIV.—Our Defence Correspondent assesses the long-term chances of the Arabs.—Page 11.

BRITAIN.—British Petroleum has chartered oil tankers to beat the Arab states' ban.—Page 21. The embargo on arms has been lifted.

UNITED STATES.—The Israelis attacked an American warship by mistake.—Page 1.

Pope's Message To Heads Of State.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT-Rome, June 8

The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 09, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56963.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67726537

Middle East war

Moving contrast between victors and vanquished

From PATRICK BROGAN, Tel Aviv, June 8

The Israel army is now bringing in its prisoners hundreds at a time, and they provide the starkest and most moving contrast between the exuberance of the conquerors and the despondency of the defeated. There is even the illusion of a physical difference.

The victorious Israelis wave, cheer and strike preposterous poses for photographers and seem bigger men than they are. The aura of victory is upon them.

The prisoners shrink into themselves. In feature they resemble many of the Israelis, the orientals, but they huddle together covering their faces and peer at their captors and spectators frightened and understanding not at all what has happened. The footmen of Egypt and the chariots thereof have been utterly destroyed.

The road from Gaza to Ramana is lined with the wrecks of Egyptian tanks and lorries. The Israel claims to have destroyed hundreds of tanks are perfectly credible. The lorries are Molotovas and the tanks also are Russian.

Air supremacy exploited

The first cause of the Egyptian defeat is painfully obvious. The Israelis had total control of the air and used it to destroy tanks, convoys and command posts in advance of the ground troops.

The second cause which must be stated is the cowardice of some of the Egyptians.

In some areas they abandoned their vehicles, their boots, their uniforms. The officers tore off their insignia and took refuge in the towns or fled towards Suez.

A motorized Egyptian division stationed along the coast abandoned everything. Their lorries were still camouflaged and dug in and abandoned with their doors open. Around divisional headquarters modern Russian tanks dug in to cover the main road into Egypt were abandoned intact.

At El Arish airport in one field there stand a dozen anti-aircraft guns untouched and unfired, with their bands of shells still clipped into place. The Israelis can defend El Arish with the Egyptians' own equipment.

There was some resistance. An Algerian-born Israel soldier who had marched most of the way through the desert to El Arish said his battalion had lost a very few killed and wounded. His commanding officer said the Egyptians had resisted as much as they did 11 years ago, but no more.

Carbon copy of 1956 campaign

Of 50 wrecked or abandoned tanks I saw by the roadside between Rafa and El Arish, all but four were Egyptian. Indeed the campaign is a carbon copy of 1956. The Israel Army followed the same route and met resistance at the same points.

Its progress was slightly slower because this time the Egyptians from the start took up the defensive positions inland recommended to them successively by their German military advisers whom they ignored in 1956, and their Russian advisers whom they listened to this time. The campaign therefore has lasted a day longer than in 1956 and larger numbers of Egyptians have been able to retreat in disorder across the Suez Canal.

The Israel Army for the most part goes to war in British-type buses commandeered from Tel Aviv or in lorries from the Kibbutzim, the building sites and the transport companies of Israel. Many are painted red, blue or yellow with advertising slogans all over them.

Smeared mud for camouflage

They and innumerable cars also commandeered were smeared with mud to provide elementary camouflage. White markings are painted on their bonnets so that Israel planes will distinguish them from Egyptian vehicles. Every Israel unit is equipped with white paint to mark captured and usable lorries, half-tracks, troop carriers and mounted light artillery. This was a lesson learnt in 1956.



Egyptians being moved to a prisoner of war camp while an Israel armoured column moves in the opposite direction near El Arish.

Israel's citizen army is like none other. With a huge majority of reservists, military discipline is more a matter of civic responsibility than conventional discipline.

The soldiers sometimes have an air of a cowboy army, but this is a victorious army and can afford its elation. Troops driving up to the front shout "to Cairo, to Cairo", and there is no doubt they could get there. Late on Wednesday they were shouting "Jerusalem, Jerusalem", and it is hard to see how they can be persuaded to give up the old city.

The army grape-vine is extraordinarily well informed. Soldiers in Sinai knew of the fall of Jerusalem and the capture of Sharm el Sheikh hours before this was announced on the radio. That security is loose (there is a tolerant censorship of outgoing press cables) is another sign of victory.

The fruits of victory

Those Israelis who can pause to reflect are already wondering how much Israel can and will keep of her victories. They would concede a lot for a final peace with the Arabs. But the army is assailed with no such doubts.

Soldiers will tell anyone with varying degrees of fluency in various European languages or with expressive gestures that they did not seek war, that they struck first on Monday solely to save themselves from slow strangulation or annihilation, but that little Israel has defeated the combined armies of 50m. Arabs and with the *shofar* sounding in Jerusalem they will not renounce their victory.

The private anguish of General Mortagi

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The commander-in-chief of the Egyptian land forces during the war with Israel has been General Abdul Muhsin Kamal Mortagi, who has, ironically, a reputation for being far less hostile to Israel than many of his colleagues.

He is a quiet, sensible man, a professional soldier who probably feels his army has suffered unnecessarily because of faulty political calculations, unreal ambitions, and over-extended commitments. His anguish at the rout of his forces may well have been tempered by some slight satisfaction at the failure of an adventure which he thought unwise.

General Mortagi's life has been that of a dedicated infantry officer. He has shown no interest in politics or power and has generally attracted very little attention of any sort. His views on most subjects are not known.

After being a member of the Royal Bodyguard he attended staff college in 1952. He appears to have played no insignificant role in the *coup* against King Farouk.



General Mortagi.

moted to lieutenant-general. In 1964 he commanded the U.A.R. forces in Yemen, was promoted to full general, and became commander of U.A.R. land forces. He is married, with two daughters and one son.

A keen student of the battle of Alamein, which he believes still has lessons for the modern Egyptian army, he made all the arrangements

why he had gone. He simply said: "I have too much paper work", put his hand to his head in mock anguish, and drove off up the desert road.

But already, in the first 48 hours of Monty's visit, while General Mortagi was accompanying him in Cairo and Alexandria, much of the man's personality had appeared. While waiting to board a helicopter, he was talking to the Field Marshal, who had some advice to give him. "You must teach your Egyptian generals to cut down on paper. Give orders verbally. If people can't take it in, get rid of them." General Mortagi nodded quietly and by the time the party was ready to go had revealed that he practises yoga. Monty said as they left together "I'm going to take up yoga. He can stand on his head."

But this seemed an untypical piece of self-revelation by the General. It was other officers who always told the story about Nasser, Field Marshal Amer and he being students together in the same class at staff college before the revolution. At that time General Mortagi was ahead of Nasser—a lieutenant-colonel when the President-to-be was a major and Amer only a captain.

Moving contrast between victors and vanquished.
From PATRICK BROGAN, Tel Aviv, June 8

The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 09, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56963.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS167996617

TIMES PAST
THE TIMES
PRINTING HOUSE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.4. TELEPHONE : 01-236 2000

THE TASK FOR THE U N

The announcement by U THANT that Egypt is now ready to accept a cease-fire puts a term to the fighting in the Middle East. Jordan and Israel ceased fire earlier yesterday. With Egypt throwing in the towel, Syria will surely accept the United Nations injunction also, and the other Arab countries must accept in their turn. The cease-fire lines will show them the magnitude of their defeat. But the requisite to any settlement was an end to the fighting, and there will be universal relief that the killing has ceased and the residual risks of interference by the great powers finally removed.

The cease-fire is only the preliminary to what should become a full scale armistice and a peace conference. To achieve this is the next task of the United Nations, backed up by great-power diplomacy. Egyptian accusations notwithstanding, it has been a small-power conflict. The contestants must now adjust themselves and their objectives to a military decision to which the great powers—unlike the position in 1956—have made no contribution. That decision states the true balance of power. But Israel and the Arab countries have been fighting over long-standing, and long irreconcilable differences. It is not easy for either side to accept a settlement unless there are some signs that it will remove the causes of the conflict and, ideally, remove them permanently.

The problem for the United Nations is to work for a settlement that will not merely postpone the fighting until a third round. It must be one which the great powers will have no interest in seeking to reverse by any new competition in armaments or military training. The Israelis made it clear that any blockade of Eilat would provoke them to war, and went to war to show that they meant what they said. But one of the main functions of the United Nations is to make recourse to war, or incitement to war, unnecessary.

The United Nations must go beyond a mere cease-fire, and work for a settlement that can be guaranteed by the great powers. A hopeful sign is that both Russia and the United States, for different motives, are pursuing similar objectives. It will not be possible in the next few hours to make significant decisions about settlement terms but it might be possible to show convincingly that the United Nations members recognize the need for long-term thinking.

One thing the United Nations cannot do is keep the combatants apart by an intervening force. In spite of the explanations offered for the hasty withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force, the withdrawal itself destroyed some of the credibility of the United Nations peacekeeping role in the Middle East. Even if a force is invited by either or both sides, it will be difficult to eradicate the feeling that its presence cannot be relied on, unless it is much more firmly established than it was before. Nor can the Security Council do much more than assert by resolution what it believes the right course of action to be now. Acceptance of the resolution is still at the whim of the countries in the fight. In 1956, when similar resolutions were being passed, Britain reluctantly agreed and then withdrew her forces.

From its outset the Middle East war has been largely a matter of national prestige. Solidarity between Arab countries had to be declared, but fulfilling it has been another question. Though advised by friendly governments against fighting, Israel was clearly determined to make good her words about access to the Red Sea and to Afro-Asian markets. The formula for which the United Nations members are seeking is one which allows Egypt in particular to halt its retreat without also giving PRESIDENT NASSER the chance to claim that the cease-fire is merely a necessary postponement of the holy war. The United Nations could have a useful role in determining, as objectively as possible, the origin and course of the war which it has now halted, and, one must hope, ended.

The Task For The U N.
The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 09, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56963.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS184773833



Problems of Israel's quick victory

By CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME, Defence Correspondent—Tel Aviv, June 8

The full impact of Israel's astonishing victory has taken Israelis almost as much by surprise as it has everybody else. I believe the Israelis were expecting a hard slugging match in Sinai, leading to an eventual local victory for Israel which would have cleared the desert and the Tiran Straits. It is possible that they were thinking in terms of clearing Sinai and then withdrawing in exchange for more categorical arrangements for keeping it demilitarized than those which broke down with Nasser's eviction order on the United Nations. They certainly hoped that Syria and Jordan would stay out of the ring, or at least limit their intervention to a token show of strength and solidarity.

It is true that in the Egyptian-Jordanian defence agreement they saw the prospect of closer Jordanian involvement as being likely to increase, judging by the evidence received already of Egyptian transfers and signs of more units preparing to go to Jordan. In fact they were already too late, in the sense that the assumption of overall command in Jordan by an Egyptian officer resulted in full but unexpected Jordanian commitment the moment Israel-Egyptian fighting started.

The Jordanian decision, and subsequent actions, have radically affected the whole situation. The implications of the capture of the west bank of the Jordan and the whole city of Jerusalem are so enormous and so unexpected that it is doubtful if Israel herself has yet really thought out her future policy. It has potentially transformed the whole Israel-Arab equation. What started as a dispute over shipping rights and frontier security has now become an issue involving possible major realignments of frontier. The shape of Israel will be changed. The question is, will this change fundamentally or only temporarily affect the Arab-Israel situation, which seems to exist in a cycle of eruptions once in every decade?

UNPLANNED ADVANCE

So far, Israel has merely announced the establishment of military governorships over the captured areas of Gaza and the Jordan west bank. Jerusalem is a different matter, though. The Prime Minister, Mr. Eshkol, and the Defence Minister, General Dayan, are both already on record as saying that Israel will never again be parted from the holy places in the old city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem—the whole city, old and new—is now and will obviously remain Israeli.

The situation on the west bank is less categorical. Evidence that the Jordanian campaign and the full extent of Israel's advance into the Jordanian bulge was unplanned can be found in Foreign Minister Eban's statement on Monday, shortly after the Sinai fighting started. He said Israel had no territorial ambitions, yet since then the situation has so changed that the statement has become unrealistic. It is very doubtful if military ambitions on Monday extended into Jordan or Jerusalem at all, and it is fair to say that if Jordanians are seeking a scapegoat they need look no farther than the Egyptian commander who kept them fighting to the extent of provoking Israel's fantastic penetrations.

Militarily speaking, Israel would be comfortably off with about half of the left bank area, involving a new frontier down the line of hills from Jenin



in the north through Ramhallah, Jerusalem, Bethlehem to Hebron. This would ensure complete security and obviate a situation where Jordan had a commanding position over Israel territory as hitherto. In any bargaining over territory, however, it is certain that the Israel Government will be subjected to great pressure not to surrender any territory, particularly those places like Jericho with such strong biblical and historical associations.

Then a major element in this question, and that of Gaza, is the problem of refugees. It is ironical in a way that Israel's victories have brought with them the refugee problem which now becomes an internal matter whereas before it was studiously kept outside. There are roughly 500,000 Palestinian Arab refugees on the left bank of the Jordan, and about 250,000 in the Gaza strip. If Israel decided to assume permanent control over these areas will the price they pay be the absorption of refugees into the community? It would seem doubtful, if only because the refugees have been reared on a diet of hatred for the last 20 years. They would certainly be prickly customers from the point of view of security. This has been one of Israel's main arguments in the past for not considering any suggestion of repatriating some of them.

There has apparently been some exodus of refugees towards Jordan but in Gaza they have nowhere else to go as the escape route to Egypt was cut off early on. Israel has had talks with U.N.R.W.A. in Gaza but nothing has emerged yet to clarify what will be done with the refugees in captured territories. The establishment of military governorships suggests that, temporarily at least, Israel is prepared to assume control of these areas, and all the people within them. The long-term internal security problem which Israel may face can be judged by the fact that Israel has only just abolished military government in Galilee some 19 years after independence, and long after any appearance of trouble from Israeli Arabs who are quite a different proposition from most of the refugees.

At present the military balance of power is inalienably in Israel's favour. Israel's Air Force sweeps the skies, and it can be assumed that Syrians, like Jordanians, will lose that part of their territory whence bombardments of Israel settlements and guerilla raids have been mounted. Today's fighting in Sinai continues because Egypt has really received such a beating that she has little more to lose by attempting to salve some of her armour encircled in Sinai. General Dayan said last night that Egypt had been proved militarily to be a paper tiger. He said it was a tragedy that this had to be proved, and that the quality of Egypt's leadership would be comic if it did not lead to such tragic things. All this is true, but it leads nowhere. Israel has won another battle—the third and most convincing of them all—with the Arabs, but who can say that she has won the war?

These victories will ensure some kind of not so precarious peace on Israel's borders for some time, just as the 1948 and 1956 victories did. Most Israelis seem to accept that that is all they need. This forms the basis of their policy of retaliation, of which this week's campaign represents a more than life-size enlargement. When Israel's patience is exhausted, or she is cornered, she hits out hard and the punishment thus inflicted teaches her neighbours to think several times before needling her again.

BUYING AN AIR FORCE

This has certainly been the case. Israel's neighbours may now take some time licking their wounds. As before, this defeat may temporarily discourage them even from promoting guerilla activity against Israel. They will also be faced with a major reequipment programme for their armed forces, involving expensive acquisitions and new air forces.

But one unfortunate product of Israel's air strikes on Monday is that the next time it may be the Arabs who carry out a pre-emptive strike, and it is a truism to say that Israel's only cast-iron air defence is her Air Force's ability to strike before it gets struck. Israel's dominance is real, but it will only last politically as long as it will take Egypt to buy or borrow a new air force. It has proved again that it is really impossible to give Egyptian armed forces the benefit of even a little doubt about their inefficiency and poor generalship. Time, though, will work again in Egypt's favour. Indeed Egypt has already lost no time in turning a military defeat into a propaganda victory over the west. In the Middle East it does not seem to take much propaganda to obscure the fact that after only 60 hours there is a larger and potentially stronger Israel, a smaller and weaker Jordan and four Arab countries virtually without air forces. Propaganda, however, has a more practical effect on Middle Eastern politics than in most places of the world. In spite of the plaudits, the victory flags going up, the spontaneous clapping at press conferences, one can see no finality in Israel's victory here.

Problems of Israel's quick victory.
By CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME, Defence Correspondent-Tel Aviv, June 8

The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 09, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56963.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS185691337

Arms embargo to Middle East lifted

SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME (Kinross and West Perth, C.) asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for a statement about the situation in the Middle East.

MR. GEORGE BROWN said there was little he could add.

We still have no positive response from the Soviet Government about arms supplies (he said) and it is clear that for the time being there is no immediate prospect of a general embargo. We are therefore reverting to our normal practice of scrutinizing applications for arms in each particular case, and we are naturally doing so particularly carefully in the present situation.

The only material change in the oil situation since yesterday is that the Libyan Government have suspended all oil exports. It is not entirely clear whether this is a temporary suspension due to strikes by oil workers.

And here let me say that I understand the pressures that are operating on these governments in this highly charged atmosphere.

Now that it has become so patently clear to everybody that we were not involved in the conflict, I trust that these Governments will decide to withdraw the actions which they were misled into taking against us.

British subjects' safety

We have examined the dangers in each of the territories where the safety of British subjects arises. We have made plans, some of which are already being operated, to ensure the safe evacuation of British subjects from these areas. In a situation where airfields have been closed and others have been damaged this is clearly not an easy operation, but it is proceeding.

My greatest concern is with the British subjects in Jordan. Evacuation by road would be too dangerous; and evacuation by air involves the dangers I have mentioned. However, by various means these problems will be overcome

SIR A. DOUGLAS-HOME said the Opposition fully shared Mr. Brown's hopes that the Arab Governments, when they met, would lift the oil embargo in the face of the very convincing evidence that neither the United States nor Britain had intervened in any way.

They would support too the decision on arms as long as the Russians were not cooperating — there were rumours that arms were going into Alexandria. That was the right decision.

He asked if the Foreign Secretary could say a word about the Suez Canal? By what resolution of the United Nations was it now covered, and were they taking notice of the situation?

MR. BROWN.—They have taken notice of it. At the moment there is not a lot anyone can do until we get a ceasefire and can start discussing all the complementary things which will form part of the settlement. This clearly will be one of them. I am addressing myself to seeing that our friends address themselves to this as much as to anything else.

Poison gas

MR. DONNELLY (Pembroke, Lab.).—Now that the Government have rightly expressed the desire to ensure a pacification of the area, what instructions has the Foreign Secretary given to the British delegates at the United Nations to facilitate the withdrawal of Egyptian troops from the Yemen—(cheers)—and to abide by the rules of international law regarding poisoned gas? (Renewed cheers.)

MR. BROWN.—I have been so busy with the immediate problems that I have not given any instructions recently to Lord Caradon on that subject.

Our position is very clear. The Egyptians ought not to be in the Yemen—(cheers)—and many problems would be easier of solution if they were not there. No civilized government can possibly support the use of poisoned gas in any conflict anywhere in the world.

MR. HEATH (Bexley, C.).—We recognize the preoccupations of the Foreign Secretary during the last few days, but should not the Government take the initiative in the Security Council to bring about a condemnation of the use of poison gas in the Yemen—(cheers) — and should not everything possible be done to prevent an extension of the use of this foul weapon by desperate powers in the present circumstances elsewhere?

MR. BROWN.—This is a matter for consideration—(Opposition cries of "Oh")—I do not take the view that it is for us to take the initiative on that. The Arab countries on whose territory it was used, and who have made a great show of coming to the support of Egypt in the last few days, might themselves have taken the initiative. I thought it better for us to concentrate on the main issues.

Competition in arms

MR. HEFFER (Liverpool, Walton, Lab.).—In view of the fact that the Security Council have called upon both sides to stop fighting, but there appears to be a continuation of the sale of arms—I understand both from the Soviet Union and from the United States—could we not follow up this initiative with a call for a complete embargo on all arms to the Middle East, in order that no side will think they could continue to fight because they have supplies of arms ready to hand?

MR. BROWN.—I am absolutely certain that one of the elements in the solution must be a limitation and a control on the supply of armaments into this area. The competitive exercise that has been going on, while we have been exercising a very great deal of restraint, is of no use to anybody and must be put right in the solution.

May I make it absolutely plain that every request for arms or ammunition or whatever it is will be very, very carefully considered by us in relation to the situation, and I would like to think that the same careful consideration will go on in Moscow and in other capitals.

Ways to settlement

MR. HEATH.—The Foreign Secretary stressed quite rightly the immediate problems, particularly the implementation of the ceasefire, and his desire this time to have not just another truce, even if policed, but a permanent settlement.

It is difficult to see whether, where so many difficult issues are involved, a permanent settlement should be brought about by United Nations resolution and discussion behind the scenes, or whether it would require a major conference with the powers involved, with the United Nations secretariat present, and such other powers that may be required. Can he assure us that urgent thought is being given to how this can be brought about at the earliest opportunity?

MR. BROWN.—Very much so. I feel in the end it must be done, formally, at any rate, within the United Nations context.

But a lot of thought is being given to how we can do it, whether we need the staff there, whether we can start elsewhere, whether the four powers is the best way of starting, whether we can do it by direct contact with the parties in the area. We are thinking very hard about this. We rule none of them out.

I am quite sure in the end when we have reached it it ought to be enshrined in treaties which are registered and endorsed by the United Nations.

Arms embargo to Middle East lifted.
The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 09, 1967; pg. 15; Issue 56963.

Category: Politics and Parliament

Gale Document Number:CS252144841

PRESIDENT NASSER OFFERS TO RESIGN

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CALL TO STAY ON

Confusion after broadcast

The Egyptian National Assembly last night called on President Nasser to reconsider his decision to resign, and urged him to stay on as head of state, Cairo radio reported. The Cabinet adopted a similar resolution.



Zakaria Mohieddin, named by Nasser as his successor.

President Nasser had earlier announced his resignation in a broadcast, but later it was stated that he had postponed the decision until he had discussed it with the National Assembly.

He repeated in the broadcast his earlier charges that American and British aircraft helped Israel in the war. "It has been proved there were aircraft carriers near the enemy's shores to help him", he said.

Earlier demonstrations had been called in front of the presidential palace by the Egyptian Navy Command and the Arab Socialist Union's youth organization supporting demands that the President should remain in office.

Heavy fighting was reported last night between Israel and Syrian forces. The United Nations Security Council earlier yesterday called on the two countries to cease fire by 10.25 G.M.T., and later both announced their acceptance.

U Thant, the Secretary-General, told the Council of reports that Israel aircraft were "bombing, napalming and strafing" Syrian positions continuously.

The Syrian delegate said Israel troops were at the gates of Damascus. It was reported from the Syrian border last night that Israel armoured units were racing towards the city.



President Nasser broadcasting on his decision yesterday.

Communists' warning to Israel

MOSCOW, SATURDAY MORNING. —The Soviet Union and six other Communist countries issued a warning today that they would give aid to the Arabs if Israel did not immediately ceasefire and pull back to her own territory.

It was contained in a statement issued after a secret summit meeting here yesterday attended by top government and party leaders from the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, east Germany, Yugoslavia and Rumania.

The statement, apparently not signed by Rumania, accused the United States of collusion with Israel in her "aggression".

Their statement demanded that Israel "immediately stop the military actions against the neighbouring Arab countries and withdraw all its troops from their territories beyond the truce line.

"The occupation of the territory of Arab states by Israel troops would be used for the restoration of a foreign colonial regime", the statement alleged.

Israel was conducting "a new offensive" against Syria and was subjecting Syrian towns "to barbaric bombings". The Arab countries were upholding a "just cause" and the socialist countries were fully on their side, it said.—*Reuter.*

Mr Brown burns midnight oil

Mr. Brown and senior advisers on Middle East affairs were in conference until well after midnight at the Foreign Office last night. It was still not clear from the reports received from Cairo and elsewhere whether President Nasser really intended to resign and in the circumstances it was understandable that no statement was issued from the Foreign Office.

COLLUSION CHARGES REPEATED

BEIRUT, June 9.—President Nasser, in his broadcast tonight, alleged that other powers had been behind Israel "when she attacked Egypt on June 5". He said: "It has been proved there were aircraft carriers near the enemy's shores to help him."

He reiterated earlier charges that American and British aircraft helped Israel during the fighting.

Speaking in a subdued voice President Nasser said he had had a message from President Johnson through the Egyptian Ambassador in Washington, asking for self-restraint. It asked Egypt not to be the beginner in the fighting "otherwise we should face serious results".

On the same night the Soviet Ambassador asked to see him urgently. He delivered a message from his Government urging Egypt not to begin the shooting.

Giving his version of the war, he said: "We all know how the crisis began. There was an enemy plan to invade Syria. The evidence was ample."

An Egyptian parliamentary delegation which visited Moscow at the beginning of last month was warned by the Russians that a plan had been worked out against Syria, he said.

"It was our duty not to accept this in silence. It was also a matter of national security. Who starts with Syria will finish with Egypt. So our armed forces moved to our frontiers.

"On the morning of last Monday, June 5, the enemy struck. . . .

"It was clear from the very first there were other forces behind him. There were significant surprises.

"First, the enemy we expected to come from the east and north came from the west. This showed he had facilities beyond his own resources.

"Second, the enemy attacked at one go all the military and civil airports in the United Arab Republic. This meant he was relying on something more than his normal strength to protect his skies from any retaliation from us.

"Third, the evidence of imperialist collusion with the enemy is clear.

"What is now established is that American and British aircraft carriers were off the enemy's shores, helping his war effort.

The President said it could be stated without exaggeration that the enemy was operating an air force three times its normal strength.

The Jordanian Army faced the same odds and fought a valiant battle under the command of King Husain.

"I confess that my heart bled as I followed the gallant battles of his army in Jerusalem and other positions on the western coast on a night in which the enemy, and the powers plotting with him, massed at least 400 aircraft over the Jordanian Army."

Immediately the speech was over, the announcer began to speak, and then sobbed and stopped talking. Sobbing by several men and women was heard and a national song was played.—*Reuter.*

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Cairo crowds shout for Nasser

FROM PETER HOPKIRK

CAIRO, JUNE 9

President Nasser's announcement caused a deep shock among the Egyptian people, who undoubtedly have tremendous affection and admiration for him. It was noticed that the expression he used was that he had "asked" Mr. Mohieddin to take over the presidency. Many Egyptians believe that the former Prime Minister may refuse to accept the office.

Massive crowds surged through the capital tonight shouting "Nasser! Nasser! We want Nasser!"

One Egyptian told me: "He will be President again tomorrow. There is no other man for us."

One minute before President Nasser was due to address the Egyptian people on television and radio an air raid warning sounded in spite of the cease-fire. Four minutes later the all clear sounded. There was no sound of gunfire or bombing.

Reuter reports said that in Baghdad, Iraq, great, weeping crowds besieged the Egyptian embassy threatening to sit down there all night unless Nasser withdrew his resignation. Baghdad Radio said President Arif telephoned Nasser appealing to him to stay on. Similar scenes took place in a torchlight procession in Beirut, the Lebanese capital, and in Khartum.

One sour note was reported

BRITISH TOURISTS TO QUIT TUNISIA

Foreign Office advice

By MICHAEL JONES

About 1,000 British holidaymakers are expected to return home from Tunisia this weekend in spite of Tunisian protestations to the Foreign Office that they are in no danger and that the internal situation is well under control.

Acting on Foreign Office advice, six travel agencies have arranged to repatriate all their clients in the country by charter aircraft. They have also decided to accept no further bookings for Tunisia until they receive the official "all clear".

The decision to repatriate British nationals was taken on the strong recommendation of the British Ambassador in Tunis after a mob attack on the embassy there. A Tunisian Embassy official in London said last night that the ambassador had exaggerated the importance of the demonstration, which had been condemned by President Bourguiba.

"There is nothing to worry about", he added. "French and German holidaymakers are staying on. We have apologized for the attack on the British Embassy and we are repairing the damage. No British tourist has been harmed."

Flights maintained

One travel agency, Wright's of Birmingham, has decided to ignore the advice of the Foreign Office by maintaining its weekly series of flights to Tunisia. It has 530 clients on holiday in the country. A spokesman said yesterday that of the 240 due to leave this weekend, only 46 had cancelled their booking.

Arab-Israel clash in London

Arab students and Israel sympathizers clashed just before a meeting held last night at the Conway Hall, Bloomsbury, London, by the General Union of Arab Students in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Hugh Norris, organizer of the meeting, said: "I was warned by the police of 'trouble-makers'. There were about six in the front of the hall." An onlooker in Red Lion Square said: "The people who were removed from the hall met more outside. They all marched round the square."

New regional

Demand to stop Syria battle

UN reports use of napalm

From ERIC BRITTER, New York, June 9

Charges of bombing by Israel aircraft of Cairo, Ismailia, and other points along the Suez Canal, and also of air-raids by Israel in the vicinity of Damascus, and counter-charges of shelling of Israel villages by Syrian artillery were exchanged today in the United Nations Security Council during two heated, protracted sessions.

The charges were denied by Mr. Gideon Rafael, the Israel representative, who described them as "malicious fabrication".

At a late session tonight, Mr. el Kony (United Arab Republic) told the Council that only a few hours earlier, at about 8 p.m. local time in his country (1 p.m. New York time), "many parts of the United Arab Republic, notably Cairo, have been under bombing". He asserted that Cairo had been bombed for one hour, while there had been one raid on Ismalia and eight others at points within the Canal Zone, causing many civilian casualties.

Earlier today, the Council had met in emergency session to consider the renewed fighting in Syria. It had promptly and unanimously demanded that both Israel and Syria cease hostilities forthwith.

Thrown in confusion

The Council also asked the Secretary-General to get in touch with the parties and arrange for immediate compliance with this demand, and to report back within two hours.

Soon after the Council began its afternoon meeting, the crowd of diplomatists in the chamber was startled by the news, even then coming through from Cairo, of President Nasser's resignation.

The Arab representatives, who were all present and expecting to take part in the discussion, were thrown into confusion. Most of them left the room and went into a huddle in the lobby.

Bombing reports

NEW YORK, June 9.—U Thant said today that United Nations representatives on the spot had reported that Israel aircraft were continuously "bombing, napalming and strafing" Syrian positions.

He told the Security Council that according to the Syrian representative on the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission, 200 Israel aircraft were operating in the area.

U Thant said that Syria had alleged that Israel committed aggression against Syrian territory in spite of Syria's acceptance of the council's two cease-fire appeals. The Syrians asked for "immediate measures to prevent war from breaking out afresh".—*Reuter.*

Diplomatists outwit Red Guards

PEKING, June 9.—A car load of French diplomatists and French and British journalists breached a Red Guard cordon tonight to attend celebrations of the Queen's birthday at the British mission here.

They arrived two hours late to a jubilant welcome from British diplomatists and one foreign diplomatist who had arrived on time by climbing over the back wall of the British Chargé d'Affaires' compound.

Earlier foreign diplomatists and journalists had been turned back by Red Guards blocking roads leading to the residence of Mr. Donald Hopson, Chargé d'Affaires.—*Reuter.*

108 Chinese charged in Hong-kong. page 4.

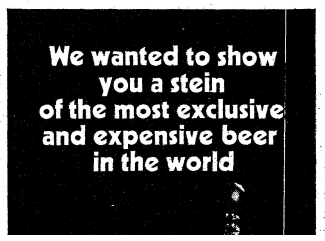
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President Nasser Offers To Resign.
The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 10, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56964.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001674

BRITISH TOURISTS TO QUIT TUNISIA

Foreign Office advice

By MICHAEL JONES

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"There is nothing to worry about", he added. "French and German holidaymakers are staying on. We have apologized for the attack on the British Embassy and we are repairing the damage. No British tourist has been harmed."

Flights maintained

One travel agency, Wright's of Birmingham, has decided to ignore the advice of the Foreign Office by maintaining its weekly series of flights to Tunisia. It has 530 clients on holiday in the country. A spokesman said yesterday that of the 240 due to leave this weekend, only 46 had cancelled their bookings.

"We feel the Foreign Office advice is based on false information", said a Wright's spokesman. "We are in constant Telex communication with Tunisia."

Cook's travel agency said that all tours to north Africa had been cancelled until further notice. Alternative bookings were being offered in the Canary Islands and Mediterranean resorts. Other agencies taking the Foreign Office advice to evacuate Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, and Algeria are Lord Brothers, Horizon, Hickie Borman, Milbanke, and Wings.

Arab-Israel clash in London

Arab students and Israel sympathizers clashed just before a meeting held last night at the Conway Hall, Bloomsbury, London, by the General Union of Arab Students in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Hugh Norris, organizer of the meeting, said: "I was warned by the police of 'trouble-makers'. There were about six in the front of the hall." An onlooker in Red Lion Square said: "The people who were removed from the hall met more outside. They all marched round the square."

New regional premium plan

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

Overriding industrial criticisms to the proposed regional employment premium, the Government yesterday published a White Paper giving details of plans to implement the scheme. The proposal will be included in a new clause in the Finance Bill.

Industry will get about £100m. a year for at least seven years, starting next September. Male workers in manufacturing in the development areas where the premium will apply will attract a 30s.

British Tourists To Quit Tunisia.
By MICHAEL JONES

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 10, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56964.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17525962

Arab leadership in the balance

Counting the cost of war

From NORMAN FOWLER, Beirut, June 9

The news that Syria had accepted the United Nations cease-fire came over Damascus radio early today when a programme of military music was interrupted to announce the decision. Only a few hours earlier the radio had stepped up attacks on western leaders and called on Syrians to march on the enemy and crush the imperialists.

With this decision fighting in the Middle East has now come to an uneasy stop, and both sides are counting the cost. Among Arab nations Egypt and Jordan have lost most. Syria has not been affected nearly so much. There were daylight raids on Damascus, but the bombing affected only targets. On the other hand Syria faced the choice of agreeing to a cease-fire or pressing on alone.

Difficult time for King Husain

There is clearly disappointment among Arabs that the battle has ended so quickly, and a number of political leaders came under scrutiny as a result.

First and foremost of course was President Nasser. He was identified with the war most closely among Arab leaders, and it was on Egypt that most hopes were pinned.

In Jordan King Husain faces a difficult time. Although it is recognized that his soldiers put up a fierce fight nevertheless he is associated with defeat. In Syria the cease-fire could have important effects on the Government, which is backed by the military.

Much depends on the reaction of the ordinary man in the street. So far comment is guarded, but it could mean a reaction against the leaders who took them into this situation. Today Beirut is no longer a city where transistor radios blare at every turn.

America as the real villain

Alternatively there is little doubt that the politicians will make much of "British and American intervention", although not accepted universally as many believe. Britain's reputation may not be very high at the moment, but the United States is seen as the real villain of this particular plot.

It is still too early to judge what the permanent effect will be on Anglo-American standing in the Middle East. In British diplomatic circles it is believed that the thaw may be slow, but oil supplies are expected to be resumed after an interval. There is no point in the Arab nations facing an economic loss on this.

Inside the Arab world one of the most important effects could be on the leadership position. It now seems that King Faisal of Saudi Arabia may be in a good position.

For an assessment I talked today to Mr. Hugh Smythe, the American ambassador expelled from Syria. He said the cease-fire might mean a shake-up in the command but that the Baathist Party would continue to rule. He added that it could affect Syrian leaders who were identified with President Nasser. The Prime Minister, Yussif Zeayen, is one of these.

Asked if he thought the cease-fire final Mr. Smythe said that "it could be about as final as the one in 1948, although we would hope for something better". There are now likely to be long United Nations negotiations. Mr. Smythe was the first American Negro ambassador to the Middle East. He left for Rome this evening.

The main problem will clearly be territorial. No Arab would willingly sacrifice part of Jerusalem to Israel or indeed make any territorial concessions. Allied with this will be the human problem of the refugees. No one believes the negotiations will be anything but difficult, and a great deal will depend on Russia.

The Soviet Union has played the part of peacemaker so far, but this has not endeared her to many Arabs who expected support. It may be that the Russians—who will not want to lose influence here—may recoup with a diplomatic display around the negotiating table.

It is hoped that in a country like Lebanon life may soon be back to normal. Lebanon depends much on tourism and banking, both of which are affected by the crisis. Businessmen may hope for a stable period but they must maintain a balance between business interest and the Arab cause.

Israel guarantee on worship

FROM PATRICK BROGAN

JERUSALEM, JUNE 9

The heads of all Christian Churches in Jerusalem were assembled here yesterday by General Hertzog, at the Israel headquarters in the Ambassador Hotel.

He told them that Israel guaranteed full freedom of worship for all the denominations and full protection of the holy places.

Mgr. Benediktos, the Greek Orthodox bishop, speaking for all the prelates there, expressed his gratitude for the general's promises and to the Israel Army, which had respected the holy places and convents.

The damage to the Israel side of Jerusalem is less than had earlier been reported. The most spectacular casualty is the Church of the Dormition on Mount Sion, which has been burnt out.

Arab leadership in the balance.
From NORMAN FOWLER

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 10, 1967; pg. 3; Issue 56964.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS50556106

SOLDIER WHO MAY BE NEW LEADER

Consolidating regime in Egypt

By A. M. RENDEL

Zakaria Mohieddin, named by President Nasser as his successor when he first announced his resignation yesterday, is 49 and by training an infantry officer.

He is a small man of slender build and pale aquiline features, quiet in speech, who tends in a group to be retiring, but who is in fact a highly efficient worker, with a pragmatic rather than an ideological cast of mind.

For this reason he has often been regarded as more pro-Western than some others who have been prominent in the U.A.R. in recent years, but it would be rash to build any great expectations on that.

Well run ministry

Zakaria Mohieddin comes from a wealthy family whose properties have been diminished through the extensive land reform in the U.A.R. since the revolution in 1952. Before the revolution he was closely associated with, but not a member of, the Free Officers' movement. He had fought with President Nasser during the Palestine war in 1948 and has been regarded as one of his closest friends since then. He joined the Revolutionary Command Council in 1952, and came into real prominence in 1954 by which time both the Muslim Brotherhood and the Egyptian Communist Party were fighting back against President Nasser's "progressive socialist" military regime. It was Zakaria Mohieddin who as Minister of the Interior in charge of internal security broke the Muslim Brotherhood in November, 1954, after an attempt to assassinate President Nasser, and by extremely tough and effective methods the Communist Party was also largely shattered.

During this period it was notable that the Ministry of the Interior was run with remarkable efficiency. Zakaria Mohieddin is the sort of Minister whose desk is clear when you go to see him, except for the one document which he intends to discuss. President Nasser undoubtedly had him to thank for the consolidation of the regime after the revolution, but for some years after this although he remained both in the Cabinet and in the Revolutionary Command Council, he fell somewhat out of the public eye, becoming one of several Vice-Presidents, although he was always regarded as being close to President Nasser and in the top flight of those leaders who had influence with him.

His career then had a second sudden burst of prominence, when in 1965 he became Prime Minister. At that time a new series of plots by the Muslim Brotherhood and by the pro-Chinese faction of the Communist Party were being unearthed, and Zakaria Mohieddin had the twofold task of reestablishing internal security and retrieving what had become a most serious economic situation. By rigorously tough methods he attacked both objectives—on the economic side by cutting subsidies, allowing the prices of some essentials to rise, and increasing the prices of some manufactured goods, such as private cars, by as much as 200 per cent.

Zakaria Mohieddin's Ministry was hailed—particularly in the United States—as a promising era of greater economic realism. It lasted, however, only 11 months, and he was then replaced by the much more Marxist former Minister of the Aswan High Dam, Sidky Soliman, when President Nasser's support for Mohieddin's restrictive economic policy began to waver.

It has long been supposed that in foreign policy Zakaria Mohieddin was by temperament opposed to foreign adventurism. An east European correspondent at the United Nations who interviewed him in 1961 claimed that he had declared privately that Egypt would eventually have to come to terms with Israel.

Soldier WHO May Be New Leader.
By A. M. RENDEL

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 10, 1967; pg. 3; Issue 56964.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS51211466

PRESIDENT NASSER'S BROADCAST TO THE NATION

'ARABS WERE NOT DEFEATED BY ISRAEL ALONE'

BEIRUT, June 9.—The full text of President Nasser's broadcast, in which he originally announced his resignation, was as follows:—

Brothers, we have been accustomed together in times of victory and in times of stress, in the sweet hours and in the bitter hours, to speak with open hearts and to tell each other the facts, confident that through this means alone we can always find our sound direction, however critical the circumstances and however low the light.

We cannot hide from ourselves the fact that we have met with a grave setback in the last few days. But I am confident that all of us can in a short time overcome our difficult situation. To do this we shall need much patience, much wisdom and moral courage, and ability for devoted work.

Brothers, before that we should look at what happened in order to follow developments and the way they proceeded until they reached this stage.

We all know how the crisis began in the first half of last May. There was an enemy plan to invade Syria, and the statements by his politicians and all his military commanders declared that frankly. The evidence was ample.

The sources of our Syrian brothers and our own reliable information were categorical on this.

Moscow foretold Israel attack

Even our friends in the Soviet Union told the parliamentary delegation which was visiting Moscow early last month that there was a calculated intention. It was our duty not to accept this in silence. In addition to it being a question of Arab brotherhood it was also a matter of national security. Who starts with Syria will finish with Egypt.

So our armed forces moved to our frontiers.

Following this came the withdrawal of the United Nations force then the return of our forces to the Sharm el Sheikh position which commands the Tiran straits and which the Israeli enemy used as one of the results of the tripartite aggression on us in 1956.

The passage of the enemy flag in front of our forces was intolerable and so were other matters connected with the most precious aspirations of the Arab nation.

Our estimates of the enemy's strength were precise. They showed us that our armed forces had reached a level of equipment and training at which they were capable of deterring and repelling the enemy.

We realized that the possibility of an armed clash existed, and we accepted the risk. There were several factors before us, nationalist, Arab, and international. These included a message from President Lyndon Johnson of the United States which was handed to our ambassador in Washington on May 26, asking us for restraint and not to be the first to open fire. Otherwise we would face serious consequences.

The same night the Soviet Ambassador asked to see me urgently at 3.30 and told me that the Soviet Government strongly requested we should not be the first to open fire.

Enemy attacked from the west

On the morning of last Monday, June 5, the enemy struck. If we say now it was a stronger blow than we had expected we must say at the same time, and with assurance, that it was much stronger than his resources allowed.

It was clear from the very first there were other forces behind him which came to settle their accounts with the Arab Nationalist movement.

There were significant surprises:—

1. The enemy we expected to come from the east and north came from the west. This showed he had facilities beyond his own resources and exceeding the estimate of his strength.

2. The enemy attacked at one go all the military and civil airfields in the United Arab Republic. This meant he was relying on something more than his normal strength to protect his skies from any retaliation from us. The enemy was also fighting on other Arab fronts with other assistance.

3. The evidence of imperialist collusion with the enemy is clear. It sought to benefit from the lesson of the former open collusion of 1956, this time concealing itself cunningly. What is now established is that American and British aircraft carriers were off the enemy's shores, helping his war effort.

British planes 'raid two fronts'

Also, British aircraft raided in broad daylight positions on the Syrian and Egyptian fronts, in addition to operations by a number of American aircraft reconnoitring some of our positions. The inevitable result was that our land forces, fighting a most violent and brave battle in the open desert, found their air cover was inadequate in face of decisive superiority.

It can be said without fear or exaggeration that the enemy was operating an air force three times its normal strength.

This was also faced by the forces of the Jordanian Arab Army which fought a valiant battle under the command of King Husain who, to be just and honest to him, adopted a fine attitude. I confess that my heart bled as I followed the battles of his gallant army in Jerusalem and other positions on the western coast on a night in which the enemy and the powers plotting with him massed at least 400 aircraft to operate over the Jordanian Army.

There were magnificent and honourable battles.

The Algerian people and their great leader, Houari Boumedienne, gave without reservation to the battle.

The Iraq people and their loyal leader, Abdel Rahman Arif, also gave without reservation.

The Syrian Army fought heroically, supported by the forces of the great Syrian people and under the leadership of their nationalist government.

The peoples and governments of Sudan, Kuwait, Yemen, Lebanon, Tunisia and Morocco adopted honourable attitudes.

The peoples of the entire Arab nation, without exception throughout the Arab homeland, struck an attitude of manhood and dignity, an attitude of determination, an attitude of insistence that Arab rights will not be lost nor will they dwindle, and that the war in defence of them continues whatever the sacrifices and setbacks along the road of inevitable and definite victory.

Still a major role required

There were great nations outside the Arab world which gave us moral support which cannot be estimated, but the conspiracy was bigger and stronger. The enemy's concentration on the Egyptian front, to which it pushed all its main force of armour and infantry, was backed by an air superiority the dimensions of which I have already described to you.

The nature of the desert did not permit a full defence, particularly with the enemy's air superiority. I realize that the development of the armed battle may not be favourable to us. I tried with others to use all resources of Arab strength. Arab petroleum played its part. The Suez Canal played its part. And there is still a major role required of Arabs everywhere and I am fully confident they will be able to perform it.

Our armed forces in Sinai had to evacuate the first defence line and fought their terrible battles with tanks and aircraft along the second defence line.

Then we responded to the cease-fire resolution following assurances in the recent Soviet draft resolution to the Security Council and following declarations by the French Government that no one could achieve a territorial expansion as a result of the recent aggression, and in view of international public opinion, particularly in Asia and Africa, which watches our position and feels the ugliness of the world-dominant powers which pounced on us.

We now have several urgent tasks before us. The first task is to remove the remnants of this aggression against us and adopt, with the Arab nation, an attitude of firmness and steadfastness.

In spite of the setback, the Arab nation with all its energies and resources, is able to insist on removing the remnants of the aggression.

The second task is for us to learn the lesson of the setback.

'I assume entire responsibility'

In this connexion there are three vital facts: (1) The destruction of imperialism in the Arab world leaves Israel with its own strength alone. Whatever the conditions and however long they may last, the abilities of the Arabs are greater and more effective. (2) The reorientation of Arab interests in the service of Arab rights is a primary safeguard. The U.S. Sixth Fleet was moving with Arab petroleum. There are Arab bases which were forcibly, and despite the will of the peoples, placed at the service of aggression. (3) What is now needed is a unified voice by the entire Arab nation, that is a safeguard for which there is no substitute in these conditions.

We now reach an important point in this soul-searching by asking ourselves: Does this mean we do not assume responsibility for the consequences of this setback?

I tell you truthfully that I am ready to assume the entire responsibility. I have taken a decision with which I want you all to help me.

I have decided to give up completely and finally every official post and every political role and to return to the ranks of the public to do my duty with them like every other citizen.

The forces of imperialism imagine that Abdel Nasser is their enemy. I want it to be clear to them that it is the entire Arab nation and not Gamal Abdel Nasser.

The forces hostile to the Arab nationalist movement always try to picture it as Abdel Nasser's empire. That is not true, for the hope for Arab unity began before Gamal Abdel Nasser. It will remain after Gamal Abdel Nasser.

I have always told you that it is the nation which survives. Whatever his [Nasser's] contribution to the causes of his homeland, he is but an expression of a popular will and is not the creator of that will.

In accordance with Article 110 of the provisional constitution, promulgated in March, 1964, I have asked my colleague, friend, and brother, Zakaria Mohieddin, to take over the post of President of the Republic and to carry out the constitutional provisions.

Consequently, and after this decision, I place all I have at his disposal in dealing with the critical situation through which our people are passing.

I am not thereby liquidating the Revolution. The Revolution is not the monopoly of one generation of revolutionaries. I am proud of the contribution by this generation of revolutionaries.

It has brought about the evacuation of British imperialism and the independence of Egypt. It has defined its [Egypt's] Arab character, fought the policy of zones of influence in the Arab world, led the socialist revolution and brought about a profound change in the Arab way of life.

It has affirmed the people's control of their resources and the product of their national action.

It recovered the Suez Canal and laid down the bases of industrial build-up in Egypt, built the high dam to turn the arid desert green.

It has extended generating power networks all over the northern Nile valley and extracted petroleum resources after a long wait.

More important than all this, it has placed the workers in the leadership of political action. They are always the source for new leadership carrying the banner of the patriotic and nationalist struggle phase after phase, building up socialism and winning victories.

Great inspiration for future

My confidence is unlimited in this leadership alliance of national action—the peasants, the workers, the intelligentsia and nationalist capitalism.

Its unity and cohesion and the creative inter-action within the framework of this unity is able to achieve, through earnest and firm action, as I have said more than once, a gigantic miracle for this country so that it may be a force for itself, the Arab nation, the national revolution and world peace based on justice.

The sacrifices made by our people, their civic spirit throughout the crisis, the glorious heroism inscribed by the officers and men of our armed forces with their blood will remain an eternal flame in our history and a great inspiration for the future and its great hopes.

The people were magnificent as usual, noble as usual, having faith, and truthful and loyal.

The members of our armed forces were an honourable example of the Arab man everywhere. They defended the grains of sand in the desert to the last drop of their blood. In the sky, despite the enemy superiority, they were legends of sacrifice and courage, going honourably to do their duty as nobly as they can. This is the hour of action and not the hour of sadness.

It is an attitude of lofty ideals and not of egoism or sentiments of the heart. My heart is with you and I want all your hearts to be with me.

May God be with all of us a hope in our hearts, a light, and a guidance. Peace and the mercy of God be upon you.—*Reuter.*

'**Arabs Were Not Defeated By Israel Alone**'.
The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 10, 1967; pg. 3; Issue 56964.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS51342538

JEROME CAMINADA

Unsolved dilemma over Palestine refugees



"An Arab will always cut off his nose to spite his face. When other people say he can't or shouldn't do this or that, because it will simply rebound on him and he'll be the one to suffer—that's just the time he goes ahead and does it."

This remark was made to me not long ago in the Middle East by a senior British political representative who had close dealings with the Arabs, and yet was able to stand off and see them in silhouette. He might have been described as an Arabist, in that he spoke Arabic and had spent his career among Arabs, but unlike most Arabists he was able to see the wood from the trees.

At that time the large question was what Egypt might do in the South Arabian area, and the representative was answering the argument that President Nasser would not commit himself there because he would be overreaching himself. The South Arabian issue suddenly seems rather small today, but the remark quoted is equally valid in considering what the Arabs have done and might do in their overall situation now.

When, for example, British Ministers give the Arab oil-producing countries fair warning that if they cut off their sales to western countries, the upshot nowadays might simply be that they would lose those markets for ever, the westerner finds this incontrovertible good sense. The Arab, however, does not.

So far as he reflects at all on the end result of stopping oil exports, he probably tells himself that when the time comes he will demand of the oil companies full agreed royalties, whether the oil has been exported or not.

Source of strength

Iraq and Syria have been known to make such a demand during temporary or partial halts in the oil flow, and it could easily be voiced unanimously by the oil countries when the next crucial moment of bargaining comes.

If one looks at it in one way, this characteristic of being unaware, of blissfully or deliberately not caring, is a source of strength. It means that a country such as Egypt could continue to hold out and pursue a certain line long after, by all rational arguments of self-interest, it should have desisted.

The Israelis might keep this aspect in mind. They won in 1956, but the fruits of that victory did not endure, and their latest victory might slowly disintegrate, too.

People often say in Britain that Britain created the state of Israel, and therefore bears responsibility for her safety. This must ring oddly in the ears of relatives of those British servicemen who died at the hands of Jewish political terrorism between 1946 and 1948; for in truth it was not Britain who stood proud guard over the birth of the Israel state.

The Balfour Declaration, and other actions by foreign powers over long years, do of course come into the story of how finally Israel came about; but the ultimate act of midwifery was that of the Jews in Palestine who took the law into their own hands.

Menachem Begin, who was the leader of the largest and, in the long run, most effective of the political terrorist groups, became after independence a political party leader, and he is a member of the Israel Cabinet today.

British responsibility

The responsibility that Britain does have in relation to Israel today is helping to convince her that, though she has won on the battlefield, she must, for her own ease of mind over the next 100 years, meet the Arabs in some form politically.

Israel has always said that she wishes to live in peace with her Arab neighbours, but she has not come out squarely to conciliate them on what is probably the uppermost question between them —the Palestine refugees.

In 1961, in a camp in Lebanon, I revisited some of these refugees for the first time since I had seen them in actual flight in 1948. I could not help asking myself the question that repeats itself over and over: "What new can one say about these people? What answer can one offer for their future?"

The condition of the refugees, physically speaking, was, and is, not bad, and in fact there are in the Middle East today thousands of non-Palestinian Arab squatters —squatters by their own volition —who exist in more debased circumstances. An odd point this, but it is true; and it will remain so so long as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (U.N.R.W.A.) manages, principally on American and British money, to feed, shelter, educate and train most of the Paestinians.

So far as the political future is concerned, however, the comparison is superficial, and proves nothing. The Arab, as we have been saying in the case of oil, is not in the last resort moved by material considerations.

If the Arab were so motivated, if he cared more for practical achievement and conditions, he would not be so consistently and hopelessly outdone by the more effective Israeli. He might, for example, have developed the Negev before the Israeli demonstrated that it could be done, and he might also, as an incidental factor of some importance all this week, have established efficient communications.

The world has known this week what the Israelis are doing, not only because they are doing it well, but because the press and radio have had facilities to tell the story. From all on the Arab side it has been far more difficult to get an account of what is going on, partly because they have not done well, but also because they do not have as good technical communications.

In spite of their relative physical well-being, for emotional reasons many Palestine men and women want to return to where they lived. This is so, however often their restlessness is ascribed merely to their present "host" countries refusing to absorb and integrate them. It seems to apply even to some who were only children at the time of the exodus, or who have been born in the camps.

Those who do not share the feeling want compensation. A United Nations resolution passed in December, 1948, prescribed that the refugees should be allowed to return or be compensated, but though restricted or conditional offers have been made, in practice the resolution has been a dead letter.

Assurance sought

The Israelis want an assurance that returned Arabs will live in peace, and not form some gigantic fifth column. This assurance the Arabs are more likely to give if they knew they would have a voice in their government.

Some 300,000 Arabs have in any case been in Israel since the debacle of 1948, and to them have now this week been added perhaps several hundred thousand more to the north, east and south of Jerusalem—unless, that is, there has been another wild exodus. Some of these must in fact be 1948 refugees, because, a great refugee camp near Jericho in the Dead Sea valley must have been overrun.

If one adds them all together, the old refugees, the new refugees, and the Arabs living peacefully in Israel, the total becomes formidable. But they cannot be wished out of existence, and the exiled Arabs will not exactly rise and cheer if they are told again that their case for return is cancelled out by the fact that Jews have been received into Israel from Arab countries.

A formidable number, and a formidable dilemma. But out of it might come a state which is indeed Middle Eastern, and which might even settle down as one.

Unsolved dilemma over Palestine refugees.
The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 10, 1967; pg. 12; Issue 56964.

Category: News

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THE LIGHT THAT FAILED

NASSER remains President of Egypt for another night. Time will show whether he will decide to continue in office, appallingly difficult though his position will then be. It would be easier to write about his dilemma if he was all of a piece. It would be easy to sympathize with him as a man who gave genuine leadership to his people if his leadership had not suffered from successive and insupportable adventures. It would be easy to condemn the instability and aggression which his career show, if he had not provided Egypt with good administration and social responsibility. His present circumstances, it may be, reflect underlying weaknesses in the character of his own people as well as in his personal temperament. He has certainly lacked that desert shrewdness which has been the mark of the great Arabian leaders and is notable in KING FAISAL today. Impetuous men do not easily survive the conditions of desert life and PRESIDENT NASSER, who springs not from the desert but from the Nile, has the quality of a gambler who lays his bets without calculating the odds.

It has always been clear that there is something strong about the man. The caricature of him which used to be popular in Britain never bore any resemblance to the truth. There is no doubt that his idealism for Egypt and for the whole Arab nation is perfectly genuine. As a young officer he resented bitterly the squalid humiliation of the FAROUK regime, yet he has been trapped in circumstances less squalid but even more humiliating. He has tried to make Egypt an efficient country. Yet the one Middle Eastern country that mirrors his ideas of efficiency and moderate Socialism is in fact Israel.

He tried to lead the Arabs away from their old feudal tribalism and towards a unified modern state. In following this idea he had the courage to stand up to all the great powers. He took aid from Russia but did not give the Communists in Egypt a toehold of power. He took aid from the United States and when that aid was cut off he took the gamble of nationalizing the Suez Canal. In 1956 he faced the combined attack of Britain, France, and Israel. He lost the war and won the peace.

Of course there has been a darker side to NASSER'S career. There is the ruthless war in Yemen with its use of poison gas against the Royalist army. There has been the horror of NASSER'S jails which were places of torment and sometimes of death. There are the many ordinary men who have died because of his schemes, and statesmen who have been assassinated by his friends and followers. These are not matters to be forgotten or forgiven.

It is doubtful whether NASSER'S international dream could ever have been realized. For his system to work, the Government of Syria would have had to be a strong layer of bricks at its foundation. No government of Syria has been made of brick; they are all made of sand. The Arab world is not yet ready for unity and the political temperament of the Arabs has not developed the stability which would allow a great united Arab republic to exist. PRESIDENT NASSER'S relative success in Egypt, which is itself marred by the enormous cost of armaments and foreign adventures, is matched by something like total failure in his international schemes. He has never lost his charismatic appeal but that is a personal force and not a national system.

The duel which defeated him was the duel with Israel. In recent weeks he mishandled a dangerous situation in a reckless way. But always he used the Arab resentment of Israel to inflate his own support. Some of the time this was merely at the level of ward-heeling politics, with NASSER playing on anti-Israeli sentiment like some Boston Irish mayor playing on the anti-British feeling of the immigrant voters. NASSER indeed is only too good at popular anti-British oratory himself. Yet he was faced with a genuine dilemma. He is not incapable of moderation, though his moderation was always liable to pass into a phase of adventure, but he could not use moderation in his political situation to achieve his political ends.

To be moderate against Israel would have denied him the essential element of political enthusiasm in the Arab world. So PRESIDENT NASSER came in the end to disaster. As happens in tragedy, he was defeated by an apparently inevitable interaction between the flaws of his personality and the realities of his situation. But the good and evil of his dream will live on. The good idea of a modern Arab nation working in unity will still influence the Arab people many years after NASSER is dead, and the good administration he gave Egypt will not for long be lost. The evil will not disappear either. Arab politics will remain tortured, complex, and often untrustworthy. NASSER'S leadership against Israel has been an utter failure. But the idea of hating Israel has not been destroyed in the hearts of the Arab nations.

The Light That Failed.
The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 10, 1967; pg. 13; Issue 56964.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS218328266

Letters to the Editor

THE CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST: BRITAIN'S LOYAL ALLY

From Lieutenant-General Sir John Glubb

Sir,—Fifty years ago today, the Arab army commanded by Amir Feisal, the great uncle of King Husain of Jordan, and by T. E. Lawrence, was advancing on Aqaba, cooperating with the British army moving up from Egypt. Until the end of the First World War, the Arab army served with the British army, rendering, as General Allenby stated, "invaluable assistance".

Throughout the ensuing 50 years, the friendship of Jordan and of the Jordan royal family has never faltered. On the outbreak of the Second World War, King Abdulla, the grandfather of King Husain, placed all the resources of his country at the disposal of Britain and declared war on Germany. In the summer of 1940, after the fall of France, Mr. Anthony Eden (now Lord Avon) and General Wavell, arrived by air in Amman and asked King Abdulla to raise troops. The Jordan army (then better known as the Arab Legion) fought side by side with British troops until the end of the war. Men of the Arab Legion together with British troops guarded British bases and installations in the Middle East until the British evacuation in 1948.

In 1951, King Abdulla was assassinated, largely owing to the frankness of his open friendship for Britain. In 1956, Jordan made her only mistake in her 50 year relationship with Britain when she terminated the Anglo-Jordan Treaty. Yet no other ally of Britain has had so few misunderstandings throughout the same period.

While Egypt and Syria are now almost Russian satellites, Jordan, in spite of temptation, has never flirted with the Soviet but has remained solidly pro-West through all her troubles. With all due respect to Israel, Jordan was Britain's loyal ally 32 years before Israel came into existence.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN GLUBB.

West Wood, St. Dunstan, Mayfield, Sussex, June 8.

Shipping rights

From Sir Bernard Waley-Cohen

Sir,—The whole world rejoices at the cease-fire in the Arab-Israeli war—not least the Great Powers who have themselves managed to abstain from becoming physically involved.

But the Great Powers have a heavy responsibility for what has happened. In 1956 the fighting stopped and the world was assured that the peace terms then imposed involving *inter alia* handing over the operation of the Suez Canal to Egypt, would keep the Suez Canal open to the shipping of all countries for ever. But for the past 11 years Egypt has prevented the ships of one country alone—Israel—from using the Suez Canal and Israel has with great forbearance tolerated this injustice and with most skilful ingenuity developed the port of Eilat in the Gulf of Akaba so that she could trade with the countries east of Suez.

When the now exposed "paper tiger" Nasser sought to close the Straits of Tiran to Israel, and so access to Eilat, and the United Nations and the Great Powers did nothing effective to secure that should not be, then Israel in self defence and for the simple reason of national survival had no option but to act as she did and expose the bluff of Nasser and his associates.

Now, Israel, after her second and even more brilliant and overwhelming campaign, is entitled to satisfy herself beyond all doubt that never again will her shipping be stopped from using either the Straits of Tiran and the Gulf of Akaba or the Suez Canal. And after the experience of Nassers bad faith in these matters the Great Powers (and the United Nations for what it is worth) must underwrite in absolute terms Israel's entirely reasonable entitlement, along with all other countries, to the use of these essential international waterways. Moreover conditions must be established under which the world no longer depends on the whim of Egypt for these rights. It is the job of the statesmen of the world to insist on and secure this minimum freedom for all shipping in these waters.

There will, of course, be adjustments to be made in Israel's frontiers too in the light of what has taken place this week, but these, though just as essential for Israel's security and peaceful living, are secondary to the absolute satisfaction she must receive that her shipping will be free to sail on the high seas in exactly the same way as that of all other nations.

Turning now to another aspect, there have been reports from all quarters of the globe of the magnificently generous financial assistance to Israel given spontaneously by huge numbers of people in their private capacity. But nowhere have I seen any mention of any governmental help either in cash or in kind. Much physical damage has been done and the other countries who were parties to the so-called "settlement" in 1956 and have themselves emerged unscathed from this week's fighting seem to me to have a debt of honour to meet in giving unstinting help in making good the physical damage that has been done, though naturally they can do nothing to compensate for the dead and wounded in this conflict.

May the politicians who do so much talking seize this practical chance to atone in some small way for their shortcomings!

Yours faithfully,

BERNARD WALEY-COHEN.

11 Little St. James's Street, S.W.1, June 8.

Refugee problem

From Mr. Ian Gilmour, Conservative M.P. for Central Norfolk

Sir,—Mr. Christopher Sykes (June 7), a leading authority on Israel, confirms the point that I was trying to make: that in the Arab-Israeli dispute right is far from being wholly on the Israeli side (June 5).

From which I drew the conclusion that British foreign policy should be based on British interests, as President de Gaulle has based French policy on French interests with evident success. And, indeed, since the outbreak of fighting, the British Government, to its credit, has done the same. Had it taken a similar attitude in the days before the fighting began, this country's position in the Middle East would be far better today.

Mr. Sykes would be the last man to squint (though a small experiment should convince him that to squint with one eye closed is not at all a difficult feat). But his remarks about the "exchange of populations" and the contrasting behaviour of the Israelis and the Arab governments seem to me, misleading in at least two respects. He, himself, writes in his brilliant book, *Crossroads to Israel*: "But if the (Arab) exodus was by and large an accident of war in the first stage, in the later stages it was consciously and mercilessly helped on by Jewish threats and aggression towards Arab populations." Nothing comparable happened in Arab countries. The Jews were not "expelled" from Baghdad. The excursion of the historic Jewish community from Iraq was initially organized illegally by the Zionists. "An effective organization had been set up", writes Mr. Jon Kimche. Later, the Iraqis allowed legal immigration to Israel, though about 10 per cent of the Jewish population of Iraq preferred to remain.

Since the "ingathering of the exiles" is a basic tenet of Zionism, the Israeli Government naturally welcomes Jewish immigration. After all, the replacement of Arabs by Jews in Palestine and the turning of Arab land into Jewish land is what Zionism in practice means. But it is odd to reproach Arab governments and the Arabs for not similarly welcoming this "exchange of populations" and for resenting the creation of an Arab *diaspora*.

I am sure Mr. Sykes would not want to suggest that the problem of the Arab refugees is not genuine. The Director General of UNRWA warned in 1960 "against facile assumptions that it rests with the host governments to solve the refugee problem", and pointed out that the refugees have "a strong desire to return to their homeland and to accept no other answer".

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

IAN GILMOUR.

House of Commons, June 7.

'Strictly neutral'

From Mr. Christopher Mayhew, Labour M.P. for Woolwich, East

Sir,—May I briefly correct a misrepresentation about myself in "The Times Diary" (June 8)? I am neither "pro-Arab" nor "pro-Israel". My view is—and has been for some years—that Britain should be strictly neutral and non-interventionist in the Arab-Israel struggle. This comes partly from divided sympathies, but mainly from the conviction that Britain no longer has the economic, political or military power for effective military intervention outside U.N. in the Middle East or elsewhere East of Suez.

I should have thought that the events of this week would have convinced even the Cabinet of the folly of trying to maintain our East of Suez role—especially without aircraft carriers.

Yours, &c.,

CHRISTOPHER MAYHEW.

House of Commons, June 8.

The Crisis In The Middle East: Britain's Loyal Ally.
JOHN GLUBB. West Wood, St. Dunstan, Mayfield, Sussex, June 8, BERNARD WALEY-COHEN. 11 Little St. James's Street, S.W.1, June 8, IAN GILMOUR. House of Commons, June 7 and CHRISTOPHER MAYHEW. House of Commons, June 8.

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 10, 1967; pg. 13; Issue 56964.

Category: Letters to the Editor

Gale Document Number:CS218721482

Egyptians must have had no idea the Israelis held complete air supremacy, or else they had no idea how to react on the ground under such conditions.

There is no other explanation for the terrible destruction one sees on the roads. In the Mitla Pass, two miles of vehicles, soft-skinned and armoured, nose to tail, had been wrecked and wrecked again. Other convoys lay like broken-backed snakes across the desert roads. At other times it was like flying over a sand table exercise, with whole tank squadrons in formation knocked out.

On the Suez Gulf coast the Egyptian oilfields are deserted, apart from the Israeli detachments keeping guard.

Some oil tanks were still burning either from bombing or from wrecking by the Egyptians themselves. The pall of smoke hung 30 miles down the coast and into the hills.

Other Middle East news 4
Foreign firms in Algeria sealed off 17

At noon, we stopped at Jebel Libna, now the Israel headquarters for all Sinai. In the intense heat, with the sun directly overhead, the commanders formed up for pictures.

One of them, General Abraham Jofe, said Israel lost many senior officers, who led their troops from the front. "We have been waiting in the desert for the word to go, and then all we needed was the word to stop when we reached the canal. We tried to show what an army can do when it is threatened."

Still in green

We saw what they could do. Claims of 500 tanks knocked out must be valid and may be an under-estimate. Just by the headquarters there were 16 in a row.

The latest Russian T55s were still in bottle green because the Egyptians had not had time to repaint them desert ochre. I saw one with a shell hole pierced through its point of thickest armour by the 105mm. gun of a British-built Centurion.

As a result of the devastation in Sinai, the Israelis have revised their evaluation of the number of Egyptian soldiers originally in the peninsula to 150,000 with up to 1,000 tanks. Unofficial estimates put the number of prisoners at many thousands, but generally no attempt was being made to take prisoners of the thousands of stragglers, who are being disarmed and allowed to make their way home. Six Egyptian generals were captured.

NO CONCESSIONS ON JERUSALEM

Hard line by Israel

In a 3 a.m. message from Tel Aviv CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME, Defence Correspondent, reports :—

Israel's Cabinet met last night for the first time since the war began and considered the objectives which the Government hopes to achieve from the peace.

It is clear that there is internal political pressure on the Government to take a hard line in peace negotiations—particularly over the status of much of the captured territory.

It seems absolutely inconceivable politically that any concession whatsoever will be made on Israel sovereignty over the whole city of Jerusalem. Israel is also planning to remain at Sharm el Sheikh with a small military post to guarantee free access to Eilat in the Gulf of Aqaba.

The final Israel position on other territories is less clear but the provisional policy is to hang on to everything gained. The retention of the west bank of the river Jordan and the Gaza Strip carries with it the attendant problem of at least 750,000 Arab refugees and it is not clear yet whether Israel is really prepared to pay that price. Certainly, some quarters here argue that the refugee problem will thus be solved by incorporating those territories into Israel but that argument raises the whole question about the status of those refugees in that event.

Retaining control

Refugees apart, the Israel Government is also expected to insist on either retaining control of all frontier territory which would present a military threat to Israel or at least agree to its becoming demilitarized. The idea of an international solution is not favoured here, where the Foreign Minister, Mr. Abba Eban, is determined to hold out for direct negotiations with the Arab states.

His first objective is to insist on recognition of Israel by the Arab states, which would of course be implicit in bilateral negotiations.

Further, he may well demand diplomatic relations and more inter-government communications between Israel and her neighbours.

WASHINGTON, June 11.—General Moshe Dayan, the Israel Defence Minister, said in a television interview broadcast here today that his country would never give back the Gaza Strip to Egypt nor the west bank of the Jordan river to Jordan. —*Agence France Presse.*

Liner slices bows off sloop

A man and his wife leapt from their 30ft. sloop, the Alta Vela, only seconds before it was hit by the Cunard liner Parthia in the Solent, off Eastleigh, Hampshire, yesterday.

The couple, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Haselden, of Melrose Place, Watford, Hertfordshire, were picked up and taken ashore by a motor boat.

The bows of the seven-ton auxiliary sloop were sliced off in the collision.

While the Parthia dropped anchor, three lifeboats returning from France were diverted to search for a third person believed to have been on board. An R.A.F. helicopter from Thorney Island helped in the search.

Doctors' cars to get flashers

The British Medical Association will announce at its July conference a prototype green and red flashing light for use on doctors' cars in emergencies.

The Ministry of Transport has approved the lights which have been designed by Dr. Roger Snook, aged 27, a casualty officer at the Royal United Hospital, Bath.

Dr. Snook said last night: "I hope this will mean doctors will no longer be stopped and prosecuted by police as they speed on their way to an emergency. And when doctors are held up in a traffic jam when on their way to a crash then I hope the public will let them through."



Girl soldiers with an Israel force occupying a Syrian stronghold overlooking the River Jordan.

No Concessions On Jerusalem.
In a 3 a.m. message from Tel Aviv CHARLES DOUGLAS HOME, Defence Correspondent, reports:-

The Times (London, England),Monday, Jun 12, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56965.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17525964

EGYPT COUNTS COST OF THE WAR

From PETER HOPKIRK, Cairo, June 11

Egypt was today counting the cost of the "setback", as President Nasser called it on Friday night, and for which he said he would take full responsibility.

Apart from the loss of life—no casualty figures have been issued yet—the biggest immediate loss to the country is the closing of the Suez Canal, Egypt's biggest earner of foreign currency. Every week it remains empty means a loss of £2m. of foreign currency.

Latest information is that it will take another 10 days to clear it of sunken vessels, including tugs and pontoons.

Another big foreign currency earner is cotton, but this will not be affected as this is the picking season.

Cotton and oil

How the oil industry—lying third in importance to canal tolls and cotton—will be affected it is impossible to say. The Egyptians have not yet revealed whether the installations were damaged by bombing.

Then there will be military equipment to be replaced if Egypt is to be put back on a war footing again. Russia, however, seems anxious to make amends for failing to come to Egypt's defence, and may help with long-term credits.

There is also China, which has already promised 150,000 tons of wheat and £4m. in hard currencies without a fixed date for repayment.

Egyptians are now being ordered to fight the "battle of production" and "drive the wheels forward vigorously" so that "we shall emerge victorious to finance our military battles".

Public anger with the Russians for not supporting the Egyptians has led to a heavy police guard being put over the Soviet Embassy as well as the British and United States embassies.

President Nasser tonight accepted the resignations of General Abdul Muhsin Mortagi, commander of the Egyptian land forces, Air Marshal Muhammad Mahmoud, Chief of the Air Force, and Admiral Soliman Izzat, head of the Navy. He also accepted the resignations of a number of other senior officers.

The appointment of General Muhammad Fawzi as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces was also announced. Although this is a new title General Fawzi in fact replaces Field Marshal Abdul Hakim Amer, who resigned on Friday night as Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. The Supreme Commander is still President Nasser himself.

As the first Egyptian wounded began to arrive in Cairo, three British nurses were advised to leave the military hospital where they were working. They are to sail tomorrow with 250 British and Commonwealth evacuees from Alexandria to Cyprus.

Few Britons have, however, encountered hostility from the Egyptians.

BEIRUT, July 11.—New armed forces appointments announced by Cairo radio tonight were: Vice-Admiral Muhammad Ahmad Fikri, commander of the Navy; General Madkur Abu al-Izz, commander of the Air Force; General Salah ud-din Muhsin, assistant commander-in-chief of the armed forces.—*Reuter.*

679 Israel dead

TEL AVIV, June 11.—Israel tonight announced that 679 of her soldiers were killed during the war. The Israel Army total of wounded was 2,563, of whom 255 were serious cases. The announcement of the casualties was given over Israel radio by the Army spokesman.—*Reuter.*

Egypt Counts Cost Of The War.
From PETER HOPKIRK

The Times (London, England),Monday, Jun 12, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56965.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67464396

Watch on oil supplies by Minister

BY OUR POLITICAL STAFF

The Government still have no clear information about the future of oil supplies from those Arab countries which stopped exports last week as a reprisal for the alleged intervention by Britain and the United States on Israel's side. Oil bargaining could play a part in the general settlement which now has to be negotiated.

Mr. Richard Marsh, Minister of Power, said at the weekend : " Since the outbreak of war in the Middle East my Ministry has been extremely busy drawing up contingency plans and ensuring that the emergency arrangements are well able to meet any possible development, taking into account the extent of our stock position—which is good."

Speaking at a miners' picnic at Bedlington, he said: " I am very hopeful that those countries who so mistakenly turned off the oil taps will turn it on again quickly, although in the highly-charged atmosphere in the area I can understand the pressure operating on these governments. But even if they did so today, the facts are that there will have been some disruption of our supplies. This, however, would be a relatively minor inconvenience which could be absorbed without affecting the public."

Mr. Marsh said he had talked with leaders of the leading oil companies and his Ministry was in close touch with their officials. The Government was also consulting the United States Administration. " Since their supplies are also affected by the closure of the Suez Canal and the pipelines, we are having consultations on Monday with our friends in Europe and elsewhere through the machinery of the O.E.C.D. (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) in Paris ", he said.

Pressure for debate

" I am optimistic that the interruption in our oil supplies will amount to no more than a temporary inconvenience. But we are ready if it turns out to be something more than that. Meanwhile, the moment for any drastic action has not yet arrived."

In the Commons today there is likely to be a Government statement on the latest developments in the Middle East and on the evacuation of British subjects from Egypt. There are certain to be strong demands for an urgent debate on the Middle East.

Mr. Eric Heffer (Walton, Liverpool) and 19 other Labour M.P.s have put down a Commons motion welcoming the embargo on arms exports imposed by the Government for 24 hours last week, but noting with regret that it has not been possible to get an agreement among the leading powers for a general arms embargo. Because of this they call on the Government " to introduce a resolution in the Security Council for such a ban to take immediate effect ".

Warships coming home

BY OUR NAVAL CORRESPONDENT

H.M.S. Victorious (30,520 tons), which has been kept in the Mediterranean because of the Middle East situation, leaves Malta today to resume her homeward passage.

The aircraft carrier, returning from the far east, had been due to berth at Portsmouth on June 2, and the delay had led to the wives of some of the ship's company protesting to their member of Parliament. She is now due to arrive on June 21

With the Victorious will be two frigates, H.M.S. Phoebe (2,300 tons), which broke off a Meet the Navy tour of British coastal towns a fortnight ago, and H.M.S. Derrick (2,150 tons), which was dispatched from Portsmouth.

This decision to bring the three ships home can be regarded as a clear indication that Britain, so far as the navy is concerned, regards the Middle East emergency at an end.

1,000 foreigners leave Jordan

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

AMMAN, JUNE 11

About 1,000 foreigners were evacuated from Jordan to Teheran this morning in 10 flights by American C 130 aircraft marked with the Red Cross. The evacuation, accomplished smoothly in five hours from Amman airport, was organized jointly by the International Red Cross, the United Nations and Jordanian authorities.

Watch on oil supplies by Minister.
BY OUR POLITICAL STAFF

The Times (London, England),Monday, Jun 12, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56965.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68119756

100,000 ARAB REFUGEES CROSS THE JORDAN

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—Geneva, June 11

About 100,000 Arab refugees have crossed from the Israel occupied west bank of the Jordan into territory on the east bank controlled by King Husain's government, according to reports reaching the United Nations office here.

This indicates that some 350,000 refugees have remained on the west bank, possibly about 30 per cent of them in the score of camps administered by the United Nations Relief and Works agency.

While officials emphasize that these figures are only provisional it appears the 700,000 U.N.R.W.A. refugees in Jordan are now divided roughly between the east and west banks.

The agency is believed to have sufficient basic foodstuffs in its east bank depots to last three weeks, meaning that high priority must be given to establishing a route for further supplies. This will be either through Aqaba or through Beirut via Damascus. Haifa port, and perhaps Ashdod, will presumably have to handle food shipments for the west bank and also for the 300,000 refugees in the Gaza strip.

A nucleus of U.N.R.W.A. workers remains in the strip and on the west bank. Communications have been reestablished with their headquarters in Beirut. Losses from food depots in the area of hostilities are not yet known.

On the east bank, where the agency continued to function as normally as possible during last week, an emergency programme is envisaged to provide shelter for the west bank arrivals. Fortunately, the summer nights are warm.

Casualties among refugees have still to be counted. U.N.R.W.A. has asked for emergency medical supplies, including antibiotics and dressings.

Another six tons of medical supplies left here today for Cyprus in the DC 4 aircraft chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross. From a depot at Nicosia consignments are being flown to the Arab countries. Four I.C.R.C. delegates left Beirut by road yesterday for Damascus and Amman. Other delegates have arrived in Egypt and Israel.

Helping prisoners

The Committee's prisoner of war department here has received little information so far, but it is ready to deal with the thousands of prisoners expected to come in over the next 10 days.

Mgr. Jean Rodhain, president of Caritas International, the Roman Catholic relief agency, flew today from Rome to Tel Aviv at the start of a tour to assess the needs of the four countries which were involved in the heavy fighting.

100,000 Arab Refugees Cross The Jordan.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Monday, Jun 12, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56965.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68644044

ISRAELIS CAPTURE FIVE RUSSIAN OFFICERS

'Artillery advisers in Syrian fighting'

Israel will never agree to revert to the situation which existed before the outbreak of the Middle East hostilities, Mr. Levi Eshkol, the Israel Prime Minister, told the Knesset yesterday. He called on the Arabs to cooperate with Israel.

"A new situation has been created", he said, "that could lead to direct negotiations with the Arab countries." It was clear that the time had come for all nations to support direct talks.

Five Russians were reported early today to have been captured by Israel troops during the fighting in Syria. They were said to have acted as artillery advisers for the Syrians.

In Cairo 300 British and Commonwealth citizens were preparing last night to leave for Alexandria to go on board a Greek ship at dawn.

In Moscow there was a meeting between Mr. Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, and Colonel Boumédienne, the Algerian leader. Col. Boumédienne is expected during his visit to Russia to discover what the Soviet Union now intends to do to help the Arabs.



Israeli soldiers guarding El Firdan bridge which spans the Suez Canal.

'WE WILL KEEP FRUITS OF VICTORY'

From DOUGLAS BROGAN, Tel Aviv, June 12

Israel intends to keep the fruits of her victories, Mr. Eshkol, the Prime Minister, speaking to the Knesset today, said the world must be under no illusion that Israel was prepared to return to the situation that reigned up to a week ago.

Mr. Eshkol did not spell out what price Israel would exact.

Israel's objective was a lasting peace settlement which would allow the Middle East countries to live together and cooperate instead of fighting. Israel intended to achieve its ends by direct negotiations with the Arabs.

Although he did not say so, Mr. Eshkol clearly shares the common Israel view that the United Nations will have only a minor part to play in the settlement. He said that the historic contribution which the peoples of the world, headed by the great powers, can make towards the establishment of peace in the area is clearly to address their demands not to Israel, which has sought peace since it came into being, but to the Arab states which, he said, have turned the mid-East into a focus of tension and a hotbed of ceaseless hatred during the past two decades.

Hill positions

The nearest the Prime Minister got to describing Israel's territorial ambitions was to say that the land of Israel shall no longer be a no-man's-land wide open to acts of sabotage and murder.

By this he presumably meant that Israel was determined, come what may, to keep control of the positions in the hills from which Syrian and Jordan forces had continuously shelled Israel since 1949 and from which they had sent their commandos into Israel. Egypt's Gaza Strip possibly falls into that category as well.

The military governor of the west bank territories conquered by Israel last week has announced that anyone wishing to cross over to Jordan will be helped to do so. No proof of identity will be required of those wanting to go.

JERUSALEM, June 12.—Israel today offered a new concept for the reconstruction of the Middle East region on the basis of cooperation between herself and the Arab countries.

Mr. Eshkol emphasized that his country would not agree to revert to the prewar situation in the Middle East, but said that "a new situation has been created that could lead to direct negotiations with the Arab countries".

He said that the Middle East was now at a crossroads. "In one direction lie peace and true cooperation, resting upon the sincere desires of the peoples in the area and their true interests. In the other direction lies the danger of continued hostility and hatred because of the absence of stable peace."

He added: "The international community is faced not only with a moral test but also with a test of its political sagacity. The sooner the arms race in the area is ended, the sooner steps are taken to bring peace nearer in the Middle East, the greater perhaps will be the contribution to the relaxation of general international tension."

Jerusalem pledge

Mr. Eshkol described the period between Israel's establishment and last week's Arab-Israel war as one in which the Arab states merely prepared for an onslaught to destroy Israel.

Referring to the "liberation of Jerusalem", he indicated a firm intention to hold the reunited Holy City, but promised to safeguard the religious rights of all communities there.

Mr. Eshkol's remarks about a future settlement with the Arabs were regarded as vague, but they confirmed the impression that Israel now considers the 1949 armistice agreement, as well as the boundaries set up then, as void.

He promised that Israel would scrupulously observe the cease-fire and said that the world powers could make a contribution to peace in the Middle East if they told the Arab countries that they were bound under the United Nations Charter to resolve conflicts by peaceful means.

Referring to the Soviet Union's break in diplomatic relations with Israel, Mr. Eshkol asked how Russia could reconcile its declared policy of solving conflicts by peaceful means with the massive supplies of arms and equipment to countries publicly committed to the destruction of a sovereign state.

The Prime Minister addressed part of his speech directly to the Arab people, saying: "We did not go to war with rejoicing—we did it only to protect our lives and our rights." He called for "sincere cooperation beween the Arab world and Israel."—*Reuter.*

First signs of Soviet action

TEL AVIV, Tuesday Morning.—Israel military sources reported early today that five Russian officers have been captured by Israel forces on the Syrian front.

They said the Russians had acted as advisers to a Syrian artillery unit at El Tawfik, a position commanding the valley of Galilee.

This was seen as the first evidence of active Russian participation in the fighting in the Middle East conflict.

The Soviet officers were said by Israel military sources to have been artillery experts, including a major, a captain and three junior officers.

Their presence on the Syrian front line was discovered by an Israel radio monitor who intercepted radio communications in Russian between a Syrian command post in the rear and the El Tawfik battery.

The sources said the communications, consisting mostly of firing directions in the shelling of Israel kibutz settlements, had been intercepted for two days. The monitor, who spoke fluent Russian, was finally ordered to cut in to confuse the Russians.

While he was "conversing" with the Russians, they grew suspicious, cut off their exchange and switched to another frequency, the sources said.

The Soviet officers were taken to an Israel headquarters for interrogation. Their names were not disclosed.—*Associated Press.*

Rocket base in Sinai seized

TEL AVIV, June 12.—Israel claimed tonight to have captured intact an Egyptian rocket base in the Sinai desert during last week's fighting. The base contained nine ground-to-air missiles of the Soviet SA 2 type.

Army sources said that six of the missiles were on the pad ready for launching and three were found on the ground, as though some attempt had been made to drag them away.—*Reuter.*



Col. Boumédienne with Mr. Kosygin in Moscow yesterday.

NIGHT EXODUS OF CAIRO BRITONS

Children in party of 300

From PETER HOPKIRK, Cairo, June 12

Carrying food and water for 36 hours, 300 British and Commonwealth citizens were leaving Cairo under cover of darkness late tonight for Alexandria.

The party, including many children and elderly people, were to catch a train in the early hours and go on board the Greek cargo liner, the Marianna V, at dawn.

Nearly 30 of them are British mission staff, including secretaries, who have been ordered to leave the United Arab Republic by first light tomorrow.

As the Britons congregated on the Embassy mission lawn today many had tales to tell of how the war broke out round them. These included British mining consultants from El Arish who saw Israeli aircraft strafe their mine. Another Englishman who was at Luxor saw Egyptian Ilyushins on fire after the Israelis attacked the airfield.

Servants warned

The police were today taking special precautions to protect property left behind by foreign families. In the Maadi suburb, where many Britons and Americans live, servants were told that they were responsible for the contents of houses until the owners returned.

Airlines, including Lufthansa, K.L.M., and Japan Airlines, have applied to the Egyptians for permission to bring in aircraft but have not yet been given a date. All report heavy bookings for the first aircraft out. Numbers of tourists were stranded here when war broke out last Monday and Egypt was cut off from the rest of the world. The British mission had hoped to bring in two charter aircraft which are standing by in Nicosia, but this was refused.

The strain on the British here during the past few days has been considerable. One of the British mission guards, Mr. Frank Gordon, collapsed and died of a heart attack today while helping

Masons give £542,000 to research

BY A STAFF REPORTER

Freemasons have given about £542,000 to the Royal College of Surgeons for research into the science of surgery. The gift commemorates the 250th anniversary this month of the United Grand Lodge of England.

Professor Sir Hedley Atkins, president of the college, announcing the gift last night described it as "princely" and said it marked one of the great occasions in the life of the college. The fund, which will be administered by trustees appointed by Grand Lodge, will provide an annual income of between £25,000 and £30,000.

Every Freemason in the country—there are about 500,000—was asked to give £1 to the fund. Many gave more. Grand Lodge also has many lodges in the Commonwealth and other countries overseas.

Exactly how the gift will be used will be decided in consultation with the trustees. Their general wish is that a number of Freemasonry research scholarships, should be established. The fellows will be appointed without consideration of whether they are Freemasons.

Ford men to ask

Murder hunt police seek two men

Police have circulated the description of two swarthy-faced men in their middle 20s whom they wish to interview in connexion with the murder of John James Buggy, the London gambler. The descriptions were issued after a conference of detectives at Scotland Yard yesterday.

Buggy, aged 33, is believed to have been shot in a London gambling club last month after an argument over protection money. His bound and gagged body was found in the sea off Seaford, Sussex, a week ago. He had been shot six times—twice through the head.

Police have not ruled out the possibility that he may have been the victim of Mafia agents known to be operating in London gaming circles. The head wounds are consistent with a traditional Mafia killing and the two wanted men are described as being of "Mediterranean" appearance.

Concrete found

The search intensified along the Sussex coast yesterday after a trawler netted a slab of concrete which is believed to have been used to weigh down Buggy's body. The weight is thought to have come adrift from the body during recent Nato exercises in the area.

Police are also searching for a 16ft. red and white speedboat, and a van thought to have been used to tow the speedboat away from a Newhaven yacht marina.

Detective - superintendent Arthur Butler, of Scotland Yard, is in charge of the case and his investigations are being helped by Mr. Gerald McArthur, assistant chief constable of Hertfordshire, who was praised at the Old Bailey last week for his role in smashing the Richardson gang.

Munitions ship explosion

Israelis Capture Five Russian Officers.
From DOUGLAS BROGAN

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 13, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56966.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001677

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From PETER HOPKIRK, Cairo, June 12

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The strain on the British here during the past few days has been considerable. One of the British mission guards, Mr. Frank Gordon, collapsed and died of a heart attack today while helping evacuees to carry their luggage.

Families arrive from Jordan

More than 300 wives and children of British diplomatists and civil servants in Jordan arrived at Gatwick last night on board R.A.F. Transport Command aircraft from Cyprus and Teheran. Earlier they had been flown out of Amman by aircraft chartered by the United Nations.

Mrs. Shaku Painter, an English teacher at Amman University, said at the airport: "We were given 10 hours to get ready to go. All I could bring were a couple of cases." A convoy had been arranged to take the 1,400 Europeans and Americans to Amman airport.

Masons give £542,000 to research

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Ford men to ask for more

Leaders of 22 unions representing more than 40,000 manual workers in Ford plants throughout Britain decided in London yesterday to approach the company again to seek improvements in a proffered wages structure.

ON OTHER PAGES

Sir Basil Liddell Hart: Strategy of civilian defence 11

Louis Heren: Why US may favour Israel 10

Night Exodus Of Cairo Britons.
From PETER HOPKIRK

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 13, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56966.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17394893

Arabs seek unity to fight back

Angry attitude to west

From NICHOLAS HERBERT, Beirut, June 12

Snarling with disappointed rage, the Arab world began preparing today to go it alone in the next attempt to liberate Palestine from the Jews.

An emergency summit conference, to be held in Khartum or Algiers, was under discussion, and the elusive will of the wisp of Arab unity continued to dance before the eyes of nearly everyone. Even Tunisia and the United Arab Republic reestablished diplomatic relations.

Israel talk of a new Middle East or a new conception of relations in the area looks at present very much like a pipe dream to those watching Arab neurosis take on new complications daily.

Nor do General Moshe Dayan's statements about keeping Gaza, the west bank of the Jordan and all Jerusalem, while securing rights in the Gulf of Aqaba and the Suez Canal, seem to augur well for the direct negotiations Israel says it wants.

Russia criticized

Arab anger is darting out in as many directions as last week's lightning attacks by Israel tanks and aircraft. Syria called this morning for the destruction of all things British and American. In Egypt, stern criticism of the Soviet Union could be heard.

Colonel Boumedienne, the Algerian Prime Minister, set off for Moscow to stiffen the Kremlin's palsied hand. On his way he called at Belgrade, where he conferred with President Tito for 90 minutes. Mr. Popovic, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, was later received by President Nasser in Cairo.

King Husain of Jordan, who is emerging as a new Arab hero, declared that the Arabs' sence of injustice has been increased and their determination sharpened by the six days' war.

From Baghdad and Riyadh came talk of intensifying the economic war by using the oil weapon. King Hassan of Morocco declared that God Almighty had punished the Arabs for the sin of disunity. Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabian newspapers suggested a reappraisal of Arab policy at the United Nations.

Outlook bleak

The economic war was espoused in Libya, where American and British oil companies were paralysed by a strike directed at alleged collusion between the United States and Israel.

Arab diplomacy has long been crippled by an addiction to the negative, and if there is little sign of constructive impulse at present, it should not be surprising. The past seven days have been a crushing humiliation to a people which felt humiliated enough already. It is up to the other side to make the constructive suggestions and to do so tactfully if any success is to be achieved.

Yet even with tact the outlook is bleak. The Cairo newspaper *Al Ahram* has defined the task of the summit conference proposed by Sudan as to work out a plan to erase the effects of the present setback and to adopt a unified stand on "forthcoming conspiracies".

Conspiracies are assumed to be inevitable, and one pro-Egyptian newspaper here even went so far as to suggest that the Soviet Union was involved in collusion with Britain and the United States to frustrate the Arabs a week ago. If this sounds more like the Peking *People's Daily*, it is no coincidence that China has sent 150,000 tons of wheat and $10m. worth of hard currency to Cairo in appreciation of its anti-imperialist stand.

Syria, which was the most warlike of the Arab nations before the war, appears to have suffered least in it. Jordan, on the other hand, which wanted war least, has suffered most, and King Husain probably takes little satisfaction in the flood of telegrams from all sides congratulating him on his stand.

It is estimated that two-thirds of his Army was either killed or captured, and his Air Force was apparently destroyed on the ground. The best of his country is gone and refugees pour in. Small wonder that he has appealed for discipline and courage. They will be needed.

Cairo airport undamaged

FROM STEWART HARRIS

CAIRO, JUNE 12

Cairo's civil airport seemed quite undamaged when I landed today from Athens in the first civilian aircraft to enter the United Arab Republic from overseas since the war began last week.

There were only 12 other passengers on board the United Arab Airlines Antonov 24 B turbo-prop airliner, built in Russia, which seats a maximum of 44 passengers.

One was an Egyptian businessman who had returned as fast as possible from Expo '67 in Montreal, "because I must come back to my country at this time". There were also two Sudanese, a citizen of Aden, a Frenchman, two Belgians, three Greeks, and a diplomatist from Guinea and his wife.

The airport was quiet. No shops were open, and there were no coffee, no drinks and no taxis. There was no examination of our bags by customs, and we left by the airline's bus.

On our way from the airport we saw one aircraft which had been destroyed. "It's Israeli", I was told. We also saw a MiG fighter soaring away into the sky. "We have got lots of those", said the Egyptian happily.

Arabs seek unity to fight back.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 13, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56966.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67333325

Nasser ready for summit meeting

FROM PETER HOPKIRK

CAIRO, JUNE 12

President Nasser has agreed to a proposal by the Sudanese for an Arab summit conference, according to reliable sources in Cairo. He is said to have suggested that the meeting be held in Algiers or Khartum.

According to the semi-official Cairo press, it is expected to be attended by "Arab kings and heads of state", and will consider how best the Arab nations can recover from the setbacks of the war with Israel.

Oil policy in relation to Britain and the United States is expected to be another subject discussed. Hitherto President Nasser has repeatedly refused to treat with "reactionary" Arab leaders.

The President today appointed General Abdul Riad as Egypt's new Chief of Staff. He replaces General Muhammad Fawzi, who yesterday was appointed Chief of the Armed Forces. General Salah Addin Mohsen was appointed Assistant Commander-in-Chief, and Rear-Admiral Fuad Muhammad Zaki was appointed Commander of the naval forces, replacing Admiral Ezzat, who resigned yesterday. These are the latest promotions in Egypt's armed forces after the four-day war.

The Egyptian Cabinet held a meeting today to discuss measures to remove the effects of "British and United States aggression". Muhammad Fayek, the Minister of National Guidance, said that the Cabinet also discussed the actions of Britain and the United States in the Security Council to try to cover up Israel's aggression. He said that the Cabinet appreciated the heroic stand of the other Arab armies and expressed its gratitude to the Arab nations which were denying oil to the "aggressive powers".

Nasser ready for summit meeting.
FROM PETER HOPKIRK

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 13, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56966.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67726541

JEW BEATEN TO DEATH IN ADEN

New arson attempt on synagogue

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—Aden, June 12

An elderly Jew, Mayer Awadh Shao, a petition writer, was beaten to death in Crater today. Police said Shao was mentally unbalanced, and had strayed into Crater.

Soon after, in the same area the only synagogue in Aden was again set alight. The fire brigade, trying to extinguish the fire, was shot at 10 times, without anyone being hurt. But a British patrol shot and wounded an Arab arsonist and handed him over to the police.

Then a Jewish-owned building was burnt and the home and office of Mr. George Vassiliou who, police said, is of Greek origin but a British subject. He was in the building at the time, but was not hurt.

Patrols attacked

Last night Arabs burnt a Greek-owned car showroom and garage sublet to an Arab, destroying at least a dozen cars and equipment, estimated by the owners to be worth about £100,000. The Greek firm were agents for British and Italian manufactured cars.

British patrols in various parts of Aden also came under small arms and grenade attacks without suffering any casualties. To prevent looting, police have been removing goods from Jewish-owned shops and storing them in a safe place for disposal later.

But anti-Jewish feelings, generated by the Arab-Israel conflict, have already resulted in the burning of at least a dozen Jewish shops and a hotel over the past fortnight or so.

Aden police, hard pressed in protecting Jews and their property today corrected their report of June 5 that six Indian shops were looted. They said the shops belonged to Jews.

According to police 138 Jewish men, women and children are now stranded in Aden because the Jewish Association in London was unable to provide funds for chartering an aircraft to evacuate the remnants of the 7,000 Jewish community in Aden.

They have been gathered in safer areas of Aden and placed under constant police protection pending their departure from South Arabia.

Tribesmen strike

Disident tribesmen armed with bazookas, mortars and light machine-guns early today attacked a camp of the South Arabian Army in Dhala about 90 miles north of Aden, killing one soldier and wounding two. They also attacked a British military camp nearby, but there were no casualties. The British Aircraft carrier Hermes was today officially reported to have left Aden waters at the weekend. British Middle East Command did not disclose her destination, but it is understood she is heading for Singapore.

A fortnight ago she was diverted to Aden on her way to the Far East. According to Middle East Command she never left Aden waters during the Arab-Israel war. Egypt has alleged that Hermes in Aden and Victorious, off Malta, provided air cover for Israel.

Jew Beaten To Death In Aden.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 13, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56966.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67857613

Respite for non-stop UN men

FROM OUR UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, JUNE 12

Mr. Hans Tabor (Denmark), president of the United Nations Security Council, announced this afternoon the cancellation of a meeting called for tonight. Consultations were under way to fix a new day and time.

The announcement brought a respite after several days of meetings, early and late, in efforts by the council to make the Middle East cease-fire stick.

It met last night, from 11 p.m. to 3.10 a.m., and unanimously adopted a resolution condemning "any and all violations of the cease-fire".

The 15 members of the council have had to hold themselves in readiness to meet at half-an-hour's notice, which is the minimum time the United Nations' conference services department needs to call its reporters, interpreters and others into action.

All the signs are that Russia will continue to use nuisance tactics in an intensive effort to convince the Arab world of its zeal in championing its cause.

Last night, when the council reconvened to hear Syria's complaint that Israel tanks were continuing to advance in the area of the Yarmuk river and the headwaters of the Jordan, U Thant read a message from General Odd Bull, chief of staff of the truce supervision organization, saying that observers had reported that a column of Israel tanks had headed east and then south at a point near Rafid.

For Israel, Mr. Gideon Rafael admitted that there had been "a movement of some military vehicles", but contended that this movement took place "within the truce lines established by the cease-fire".

Air shield for U S evacuees

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

ATHENS, JUNE 12

The Greek liner Carina (3,800 tons), which had United States naval and air protection on her 46-hour voyage from Alexandria, arrived here today with 556 Americans, the first to be evacuated from Egypt.

Mr. Richard Nolte, the United States Ambassador-designate to Cairo, who was on board with most of his embassy staff, expressed his pride at the behaviour of the Americans "in the face of all indignities suffered".

They had been lodged in a customs shed in Alexandria, after a humiliating four-hour "stitch-by-stitch" search by customs officials, who confiscated all cameras and films.

Mr. Nolte said there had been an attempt to set the United States Embassy in Cairo on fire on Saturday, although the building was already flying the flag of Spain, the protecting power.

Arab airline cuts Heathrow staff

Fifteen Britons, including nine part-time workers, employed by United Arab Airlines at Heathrow Airport have been dismissed because of the Middle East war.

Services by U.A.A. between London and Cairo have been suspended, and only six Egyptians and three Britons at Heathrow have been retained. They include heads of departments.

Respite for non-stop UN men.
FROM OUR UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 13, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56966.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68250829

Britain not opposed to direct peace pact

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Reports yesterday that the British Government were opposed to direct talks between Israel and the Arab states on a Middle East settlement, as insisted by General Moshe Dayan, the Israel Defence Minister, do not accurately reflect the present attitude in London.

If such talks took place and led to a more lasting settlement, British representatives would certainly be as pleased as anyone.

However, with the Israelis cock-a-hoop and the Arabs at present stunned and bemused by the complete reversal of their situation vis-à-vis Israel, the possibility of successful direct talks are regarded as minimal for the immediate future.

Nor, it is thought, can big power mediation, whether by Britain, France, or any other possible intermediary, play a useful role.

The immediate problem, therefore, is to get the United Nations, in some form, to help to stabilize the standstill.

United Nations machinery—perhaps an expanded United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization—could help to consolidate the cease-fire, supervise a disengagement, and perhaps even help to get the two sides talking.

There is now, however, a long row to hoe before agreement, since the Russians have clearly not decided to cut their losses and jettison their political and economic investment in the Arab states, now that their military aid has been destroyed.

The economic sanctions threatened by the Soviet block will, of course, have little effect upon Israel, which sends to the block only 4 per cent of her total exports and takes only 2 per cent of her imports from it, and even these few imports can readily be obtained elsewhere. But more menacing for the future is the visit of President Boumedienne of Algeria to Moscow.

Big Soviet reverse

Towards the end of the fighting there were reports that about a squadron of Soviet MiG aircraft were flown to Egypt from Algeria as reinforcement for the U.A.R. air force. Algeria has long been a training centre for Middle East and African saboteurs, and compared with Egypt, Syria, or Somalia, which have all been favoured with copious Soviet military aid in the past, Algeria must look to the Russians at present much the most hopeful military supply base.

Soviet diplomacy has suffered a most unexpected and stunning reverse, but the Russians in similar situations have proved themselves often enough to be as dogged as anyone.

Britain not opposed to direct peace pact.
BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 13, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56966.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68512973

Counting the cost

Staggering war losses in the Middle East

By CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME and the NEWS TEAM

The biggest losers in the Middle East war, in terms of equipment destroyed or captured, are undoubtedly the Russians, who supplied Egypt and Syria with all their armament, much of which had not been paid for.

Consolidated estimates of Egyptian losses in aircraft, tanks and other heavy equipment which emerged yesterday are truly staggering. In view of the shattering blow the war has inflicted on the already shaky Egyptian economy, President Nasser is unlikely to be able to meet his debts to Russia for weapons.

Egypt suffered by far the greatest losses in war material of all the belligerents. Yesterday the Israelis announced that they had captured 300 usable tanks in the Sinai campaign (about enough for an armoured division)—some of which her Army was said already to have incorporated into its own armoured units.

This figure is over and above the 500 Egyptian tanks the Israelis claim to have destroyed, and which is almost certainly an underestimate.

£48m in tanks

Egypt had up to 1,000 tanks in Sinai, about 700 of them Russian T 34s and the rest T 54s, heavier and more modern vehicles, with a handful of T 55s, an improved version. The average cost of these tanks was computed by experts last night to be about £60,000 each, which suggests an Egyptian loss in tanks alone amounting to about £48m.

The Israelis also claim to have destroyed or captured 400 Russian 120 and 122 mm. field guns which could be worth collectively as much as £8m.; at least 50 100 mm. Russian-made self-propelled guns worth £1,500,000; possibly 30 155 mm. heavy artillery pieces worth £1,500,000; and the fantastic total of 10,000 lorries and other support and logistics vehicles worth £10m.

Among other spoils seized by Israel are the almost untapped and undamaged stores depots and ammunition dumps of the seven divisions the Egyptians had deployed in Sinai. These should give the Israelis much more than the 7,000 tons of ammunition they captured in 1956.

In Jordan the Israelis knocked out or captured 70 tanks, mostly Pattons (American) and a few Centurions (British), worth £4,200,000. This was a big blow to a small army which started the war with an estimated 200 tanks.

In Syria the Israel gains were unspectacular by comparison: a handful of field guns which might be worth £1m.

441 aircraft

On the basis of these figures, the Israelis have cost the three main Arab belligerents something of the order of £75m. to £100m. in lost equipment in ground fighting.

This figure, however, is almost insignificant compared with the stupendous losses in aircraft the Israelis claim the Arabs suffered. As the Israeli air force ranged over the whole area almost unopposed from the very start of the war, and as their claims fit in with what the Arab countries were known to possess before the war, these figures should be reasonably sound.

The Israelis claim to have destroyed 441 Arab aircraft—410 on the first day of the fighting, mostly on the ground.

These totals are made up of: 31 TU 16 bombers (worth a total of £31m.); 29 Ilyushin 28s (£8,400,000); 14 of the latest Sukhoi fighter-bombers (£10,500,000); 143 MiG 21s (£39m.); 27 MiG 19s (£4,600,000); 107 MiG 17s (£15,100,000); 28 Hunters (£3,360,000); eight Antonov 12 heavy transports (£8m.); 31 Ilyushin medium transports (£4,650,000); 10 MI 6 heavy helicopters (£7,500,000); seven MI 4 light helicopters (£600,000); and six light aircraft worth a few hundred thousand pounds.

All these aircraft, apart from the 28 Hunters (about 20 Jordanian, the rest Iraq), were supplied by Russia and destroyed by the French fighters of Israel.

Replacement cost

These figures postulate an Arab air loss (mostly like the ground losses, Egyptian) of £131m., the cost of the aircraft themselves. With spares and armaments for the aircraft included, this figure would increase by 70 per cent or more, suggesting a total of £223m. One expert said yesterday that if these aircraft are to be replaced by new ones, the replacement cost might be double that.

The suggested total of upwards of £300m. worth of equipment lost by the Arabs (most of which was supplied by Russia and not yet paid for) takes no account of the destruction or capture of ammunition, stores, and petrol, or naval losses.

The military hardware deployed by both sides was worth at least £1,000m. Israel's losses in equipment are not yet known, but the Arabs claim to have shot down between 40 and 50 of her aircraft. It is clear that Israel losses are less than her gains on the ground; and in the air there is no comparison.

Costing the price of Arab equipment is of necessity a perilous operation. The figures supplied yesterday are estimated values, but it must be said that the actual prices paid by the Arabs for their arms depend not on their value so much as on the valuation their Russian suppliers put on them.

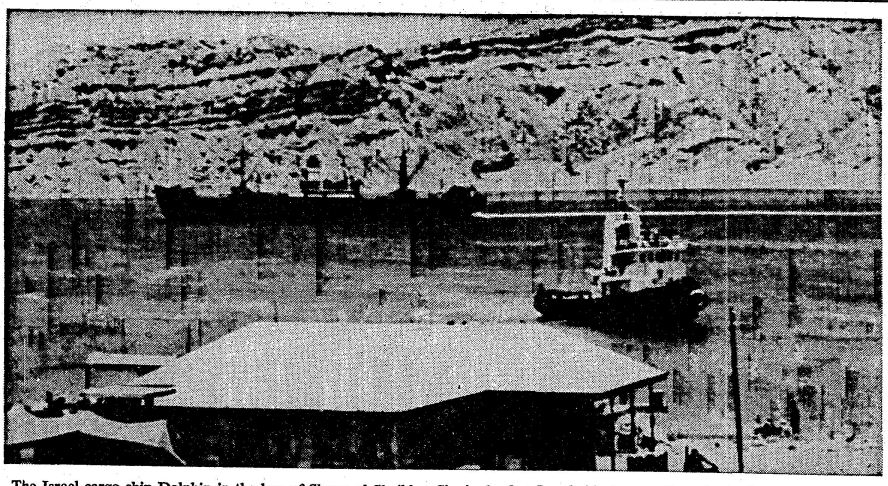
Big external debt

American sources said last night that a recent Pentagon estimate of the total Soviet investment in Egypt was £880m. This included not only armaments but also the Aswan Dam, which accounts for perhaps £100m.

Figures obtained by western sources from Egypt before this war put Egypt's total external debt at about £450m. in long-term credits and another £90m. in short-term credits.

Egypt's average trade gap since the previous Middle East war in 1956 has stood at about £100m. a year. She has already lost £1,500,000 in revenues resulting from the closure of the Suez Canal and may lose another £3m. before it is open again. Oil installations near Suez have also been damaged.

Many observers feel that the Russians did not expect to be paid for the arms they supplied. Certainly on available figures it is difficult to see how Egypt could have paid for them even if there had been no war.



The Israel cargo ship Dolphin in the bay of Sharm el Shaikh. She is the first Israel ship to pass through the Strait of Tiran since President Nasser imposed a blockade on May 23.

THE FÜHRER REFUSED TO FACE A DOCTOR

Hitler a man who feared illness

From DAVID HOTHAM—Bonn, June 12

Hitler was a hypochondriac, who was convinced he would die young. When he sat in a chair, he would constantly rack the upper part of his body to and fro.

Baldur von Schirach, Hitler's youth leader in the 1930's, said he at first thought this was due to nervous tension, but one day Hitler confided to him that he had persistent pains in his stomach and diaphragm and believed he had cancer.

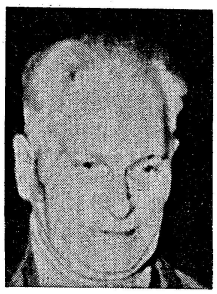
Hitler was obsessed by the thought of illness, but like all hypochondriacs he refused to face the doctor. When finally persuaded to do so, he was passed perfectly fit, but put on a vegetarian diet which he stuck to for the rest of his life.

This was in 1929, four years before the Nazis came to power. The details are given by Baldur von Schirach in the latest instalment of his memoirs, which are running weekly in the illustrated magazine *Stern*.

Schirach, now 60, was released last October from Spandau gaol in Berlin, after serving the full 20-year sentence he received at Nuremberg.

In spite of his hypochrondria, Hitler was no weakling, writes Schirach. The youth leader once found a five-cord chest expander in Hitler's flat in Munich, which the leader used every day to brace his chest and arm muscles.

But he took no part in any kind of sport. Schirach, in spite of unbounded admiration for the Nazi chief, was always astonished that the man who demanded the utmost physical fitness from all young Germans was completely unathletic himself. "No one ever saw Hitler in his bathing pants", writes Schirach with unconscious humour.



Herr Baldur von Schirach.

Schirach's memoirs are entitled "I Believed in Hitler", and the apparent purpose of Herr Henri Nannen, the editor of *Stern*, in publishing them, is to explain the fascination this man had for almost the whole of German youth in the Nazi period.

Most of the latest instalment is about his love affair with Geli Raubal, his 23-year-old "niece", who lived with him for four years. She addressed Hitler as "Uncle", and took unheard of liberties with him such as pulling up his tie when the knot slipped, says Schirach.

Geli Raubal's suicide in September 1931, 18 months before the Nazis came to power, remained a mystery even to Hitler's close associates. It brought Hitler to the verge of collapse. Goering and Hess had to take all his pistols away and watch by his side for two days and nights.

Schirach's own explanation of Geli's suicide is that, though she was flattered to be the girl-friend of so famous a man, there was "something oppressive" in living with Hitler at close quarters.

Schirach says that Hitler never loved any other woman, not even Eva Braun. He had an erotic hypertension in relations with women, due to sexual frustration, which was the basis of his lust for power.

These memoirs, often turgid and self-pitying, and constantly self-justifying in a subtle way, have nevertheless the fascination of a story told by one of the few surviving high Nazi leaders.

More striking than the text are two photographs of Schirach himself. In the first, taken in 1943, one sees him young, energetic, walking with Hitler, who holds a large dog on a leash; in the second, taken after his release last year, one sees the white-haired chastened, almost

Staggering war losses in the Middle East.
By CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME and the NEWS TEAM

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 13, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56966.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS167996621

TIMES PAST
THE TIMES
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THE ISOLATION OF VICTORY

Having won a war on their own the Israelis seem determined to win the peace in the same way. Those of their leaders who have spoken so far refer with contempt to the United Nations and with mistrust, to say the least, to intervention by any foreign governments. What they want is direct negotiations with the Arabs. That is understandable. If there is going to be a settlement they want Arab signatures on it. This, as the Israelis see it, is the only chance of getting the settlement honoured.

But what sort of settlement? "We have the right", said MR. ESHKOL yesterday, "to establish what our vital interests are and how they can be secured." He did not set out precise peace terms, but so far as can be judged the aim is that Israel should keep control of conquered territory from which in the past came "murder, sabotage, and harassment". This presumably includes part or all of Sinai, the heights in Syria overlooking Israel's Galilee settlements, and part—or again possibly all—of Jordan's west bank. In particular there is an emphatic intention to hang on to the whole of Jerusalem.

These are conqueror's terms. It may be that nobody can dislodge Israel from any of the territory it has captured, but no Israeli can really believe that a dictated peace of this sort is going to last, even if any Arab government agreed to it, which is highly improbable. Nor is there any reason to suppose that foreign governments would underwrite conquests on this scale. On the morrow of victory Israelis may think this does not matter, but in the long run it will. They are not necessarily going to be the military superiors of all the Arabs for ever.

The dangerous lesson the Arabs are liable to draw from last week's war is that piling up armaments for a conventional war is no use. Victory went to the Israelis partly because they struck first. The Arabs will try to get into a position from which they can do the same in their turn. This will take time, and will turn their thoughts more than ever towards missiles, with or without nuclear warheads. Both sides are likely to plan in terms of preemptive strikes. This would be a fundamental change, because in the past there have always been Arab leaders who, whatever their public language, have tried to hold back from war.

Unless the Israelis think they can batter the Arabs into submission every five or ten years they will have to dilute their present resolution with magnanimity. This applies especially to their attitude to the Arabs in what until a week ago was Jordan. There were nearly a million of these, very many of whom lost their homes twenty years ago. About 100,000 of them have apparently already fled across the River Jordan towards Amman. GENERAL DAYAN has said that there could be no question of assimilating the west bank Arabs into Israel. Unless he meant that the west bank should be restored to Jordan—and there is no sign that he did—he must have envisaged creating another million refugees, to be looked after by somebody else. That would be appalling. No peace could or should be built on such a basis.

There is great hardship among the refugees. Indeed, the whole economic life of Jordan has been shattered. There is suffering caused by war in Egypt and in Syria too. On occasions such as this it is not relevant to ask who started the war, only whom are the war's victims. It is right for public and private bodies to do what they can to help as quickly as possible. The British Government should give a lead in a generous dispatch of aid of all sorts, particularly food and medical supplies. If any settlement is ever going to be reached in this area it cannot be on a foundation of homeless people, poverty, and resentment.

The Isolation Of Victory.
The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 13, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56966.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS184773837

Letters to the Editor

AFTERMATH IN THE MIDDLE EAST: THE FUTURE OF SINAI

From Mr. John Tilney, Conservative M.P. for Wavertree

Sir,—There will be a need for a tranquillizing agent in the Middle East for some time to come. But the U.N. cannot fulfil that role unless it is given a greatly increased status and is not subject to the passing whims of some of its members.

The opportunity now arises for the U.N. to be given a solid job to do, if the Security Council would encourage it to acquire by purchase or on a long lease the sovereignty of the Sinai Peninsula. This could not only provide an assembly point and first base for a permanent U.N. world constabulary for the area, but it could also be a laboratory for arid zone projects and a place for the permanent settling, according to U.N.R.W.A. estimates, of at least 70,000 refugees. The purchase price could also help meet Egypt's need for development funds.

The Sinai Peninsula has no ordinary location: it is the land bridge between Asia and Africa, and, having the Suez Canal as one of its borders, can make claim to be the centre of the world. If a U.N. district in Sinai was now to be established and the U.N. given the task of administering it in the name of mankind, it could also provide an exciting precedent for dampening down conflicts in other parts of the world.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN TILNEY.

House of Commons.

Gas and oil

From Mr. Hugh Fraser, Conservative M.P. for Stafford and Stone

Sir,—The cutting of Middle East oil supplies has an important lesson for the western world. For some time now, negotiations have been going on for the supply of very large quantities of surplus natural gas from the U.S.S.R. to Europe outside the Iron Curtain. The gas will be cheap, the construction of the pipe lines will provide a great deal of work for Italian industry but what assurances will the consumers have that supplies will not be cut for "political reasons" when it suits the Eastern Block? The alternative supplies from Holland might be a little bit more expensive but how much more reliable they would be!

The interruption in the supply of Middle East oil is no more than a nuisance and will probably cost the Middle East producers more than the consumers. There is plenty of surplus oil available—including Russian oil. But to restore essential supplies of natural gas if deliveries were stopped would be a much more difficult, painful and costly operation.

Yours faithfully,

HUGH FRASER.

House of Commons, June 12.

Protected by Islam

From Canon Edward Every

Sir,—It is only to be expected that the case for an international Jerusalem should now be considered and there may well be serious reasons in favour of it, in the new situation. But I hope that the long history of Jerusalem under Muslim sovereigns will not be misrepresented and that its benefits will be recognized.

In the first generation after the Hegira the city was surrendered, in peace, to the armies of Islam. On that occasion the great Caliph Omar negotiated with the Christian Patriarch of Jerusalem, Saint Sophronius. The Caliph refused to say his prayers near the Holy Sepulchre for fear that some zealots of Islam might make the fact that he had prayed there a pretext for building a mosque on that great Christian site.

Ever since then, before the Crusades and after the Crusades, the Christian shrines have been protected by the Islamic sovereigns of Jerusalem and the Christian inhabitants of Jerusalem have had their traditional rights, including self-government in matters of personal status and in the administration of charitable and religious foundations.

In the past, when the Christian Churches were often antagonistic to one another, the Islamic custody of the city prevented any one of them from monopolizing the shrines. Forms of Christianity which were proscribed as heretical in Christian countries were free to live their own life in the Islamic world. In recent years the courage, wisdom and courtesy of successive Governors of Jerusalem under King Husain of the Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan and his father and grandfather have contributed in no small measure to the great improvement which has come about in the mutual relations of the Christian Churches in the city. This is symbolized by the restoration of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

As King Husain stated in his speech to the press before the historic pilgrimage of His Holiness the Pope, the adherents of Christianity and Islam live side by side in Jordan, "as good citizens of a united people. We do not preach tolerance; we live it and take it for granted; this has been our history and is our inalienable tradition. . . . We are proud of our record of faithful custody of the Holy Places and we are determined to live and abide by that tradition for ever".

The custodian is not the sovereign, much as he is revered. It is the sacred law which gives protection, in certain definite ways, to other monotheistic faiths in any Islamic state. This has been and may continue to be of real value.

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD EVERY, Canon of Saint George's Cathedral, Jerusalem.

St. Augustine's College, Canterbury, June 10.

Respect for the shrines

From Professor S. Sambursky

Sir,—When in 1943 the Allied troops shelled and destroyed Monte Casino this was justified by the exigencies of war and the need to spare human life.

I wonder whether your report of the events in Jerusalem (June 10) would have given a truer reflection of the situation if it had emphasized the fact that Israeli forces succeeded in saving the great shrines of Christianity and Islam at the price of heavy casualties instead of giving so much prominence to regrettable, but unavoidable, damage to one of the many minor historical buildings during the fighting.

Yours faithfully,

S. SAMBURSKY, Professor, The Hebrew University Jerusalem, Visiting Fellow of All Souls College.

All Souls College, Oxford, June 10.

At the conference table

From Sir Ronald Wingate

Sir,—Egypt, Jordania, and Syria have suffered a complete military defeat. Their armies are no longer in being. Israel now occupies Jerusalem and the west bank of the Jordan, the whole of Egypt in Asia, and is, militarily speaking, at the gates of Cairo and Damascus.

Exactly the same position occurred in Turkey in 1878. The Russians had won a complete military victory and had occupied nearly all of what was then "Turkey in Europe", and were at San Stephano, some eight miles from Constantinople. The preliminary Treaty of San Stephano was followed by the Congress of Berlin, which settled the status of the various portions of Turkey in Europe for 30 years at least.

Can we not put aside our endless speculations as to the dangers and difficulties of the future, accept the military position as it stands (and we have no other choice but to do this), and leave it to the conference table to arrive at a settlement?

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

RONALD WINGATE.

The Manor House, Wilton, Salisbury, June 11.

Arab refugees

From Miss Elizabeth Monroe

Sir,—Commentators of all nationalities keep referring to the Arab refugees in contexts which suggest that they are thinking exclusively of indigents living on United Nations rations and charity.

Just as worthy of attention are the many, many thousands of ex-Palestinians who, though they were technically refugees in 1948 in that they lost their homes, have since rebuilt their lives for themselves.

All of us who have worked in the Middle East know hundreds of the men and women who did not listen to the politicians that exhorted them to reproach the world by lying at the gate like Lazarus, "full of sores". Instead, they became farmers in Jordan, teachers in Arabia, nurses in Kuwait, doctors, merchants or tally clerks everywhere from Libya to Bahrein. The great majority work in Jordan, and for two reasons merit special thought at this time. First, most founded their new lives on the economic basis of Jordan's tourist traffic, which was centred on the Holy Places in Arab Jerusalem; thus, they may well now be ruined all over again. Secondly, their courage, common sense and resilience is just as typical of Arabs as is the posturing of demagogues or the thought-process of soldiers who order poison gas for use in Yemen, and the sterling qualities that they have displayed offer the most hopeful basis on which to rebuild Arab hopes and dignity.

Yours, &c.,

ELIZABETH MONROE.

St. Antony's College, Oxford, June 11.

Aftermath In The Middle East: The Future Of Sinai.
JOHN TILNEY. House of Commons, HUGH FRASER. House of Commons, June 12, EDWARD EVERY, Canon of Saint George's Cathedral, Jerusalem. St. Augustine's College, Canterbury, June 10, S. SAMBURSKY. Professor, The Hebrew University Jerusalem, Visiting Fellow of All Souls College. All Souls College, Oxford, June 10, RONALD WINGATE. The Manor House, Wilton, Salisbury, June 11 and ELIZABETH MONROE. St Antony's College, Oxford, June 11.

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 13, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56966.

Category: Letters to the Editor

Gale Document Number:CS185167053

S ARABIA RESHUFFLE

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—Aden, June 13

The South Arabian Federal Council (Cabinet) was reshuffled today to include Shaikh Ali Musaid Al-Babakri as Minister of Civil Aviation, a portfolio previously held by Husain Ali Bayoomi, who becomes Minister of National Guidance and Information in place of Abdul Rahman Girgrah. Girgrah takes over the Health portfolio. He has been the object of Cairo and Sana radio attacks and two months ago his house in Al Ittihad, the federal capital, about 10 miles west of Aden, was twice attacked with bazookas by the banned National Liberation Front.

Shaikh Ali Atif Al-Kaladi, the Health Minister, takes the portfolio of Agriculture and Fisheries previously held by Sultan Nasser bin Abdullah al-Wahidi. The Sultan was deposed as Ruler of Wahidi in February and suspended as Minister in connexion with investigations into an air crash in his state last November. He is still in custody.

One reason for the reshuffle was to confirm Bayoomi an outspoken critic of Egypt and republican Yemen for their policy against South Arabia, as Minister of Information.

S Arabia Reshuffle.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 14, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56967.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS84241614

PROBLEM OF 'SECOND TIME' REFUGEES

UN AGENCY ACTS ON EXODUS

From NICHOLAS HERBERT, Beirut, June 13

Most of the 100,000 people who have fled the Israel Army into the Jordan capital of Amman in the past few days are no strangers to the name of refugee. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (U.N.R.W.A.), which looks after the victims of the 1948 Arab-Israel war and their descendants, has estimated that up to 80 per cent of the new influx from the west bank are already registered on its books.

The estimate is necessarily tentative, as communications with the west bank of the Jordan are poor and U.N.R.W.A. officials are not able to cross the river, which at present marks the Israel front line. Moreover most of the agency's vehicles were either damaged or lost in the fighting and until the last day or so curfew has made work difficult.

Schools as shelter

A majority of the new refugees—perhaps 56,000—seem to have come from Jericho alone, where the largest of U.N.R.W.A.'s camps, Aqabat Jaber, was located. This and two smaller camps were reported to have been almost totally evacuated and many refugees fled from the Karameh camp on the east bank during the fighting. Some of the latter are now reported to be moving back since the danger has gone and Karameh remains in Jordan hands.

U.N.R.W.A. has already appealed for money to buy tents, blankets and vehicles and has asked for medical supplies to cope with the new problem in east Jordan. As it has no agreement with the *de facto* authority (Israel) in the Gaza strip and the west bank, U.N.R.W.A. cannot operate formally, but Mr. Laurence Michelmore, the Commissioner-General, has authorized the provision there of food and medical services on humanitarian grounds. I understand the agency may also be ready to assist the Jordan Ministry of Social Welfare in caring for those refugees who are not strictly U.N.R.W.A.'s responsibility on condition that the aid given is later repaid.

It would take a new resolution from the General Assembly to permit U.N.R.W.A. to take the new refugees permanently under its wing. This it might be able to do if the necessary funds and enlarged authority were voted. The existing camps at Karameh and Zerka could be enlarged in a fairly short time, and there is no physical reason why all refugees could not be treated on a similar basis if the new wave turns out to be permanent.

For the moment the refugees are being billeted, five families to a room, in the Government and U.N.R.W.A.'s schools of Amman. This, together with tents and other accommodation being made available by the Jordan authorities, will provide them with reasonable, if crowded, shelter until the school year begins again in September. It has been stated in Amman that some of the new arrivals have been put in a new camp at Wadi Dhlil 20 miles to the north, while others may eventually go to a new site being developed at Al Gijah to the south.

At all events the flow of refugees is now reported to be slowing down in Jordan; and in Gaza, where there are some 300,000 registered U.N.R.W.A. refugees, the agency has resumed operations. It has been more difficult on the west bank but U.N.R.W.A. is functioning smoothly in Lebanon and Syria, where operations had to be suspended at Government request in the Deraa-Kuneitra-Damascus area during the war.

Help from Arabs

If the plight of civilian refugees in Jordan is the more dramatic, the fate of Egyptian soldiers left stranded in Sinai is reported to be more grim. Thousands of them are said to be struggling desperately to get back to the Suez Canal, fighting one another for the few pools of brackish water and suffering the fearful heat of the desert.

Many British and American diplomatists are on the move, destined apparently for lengthy holidays. So are businessmen stranded away from base and European families fleeing the wrath of Arab mobs. They are travelling by ship or by circuitous air routes from all the places where frenzied journalists are trying to fly or sail into. It is the Middle East *par excellence*.

So is the largesse being distributed to Jordan, the United Arab Republic, Syria, and Iraq—the countries which bore the brunt of the fighting. King Faisal has started a fund to which the Saudi armed forces have contributed half a month's salary a man. The Emir of Kuwait has presented £25m., £10m. of it to Egypt and the rest in equal parts to the other three countries.

Medical aid is also on the way and in Beirut today I saw the largest pile of clothing imaginable—destined for Jordan's refugees.

Naval escort for Britons' ship

BY OUR NAVAL CORRESPONDENT

Two coastal minesweepers of the Royal Navy acted as escorts to the Greek cargo liner Marianna V when she left Alexandria yesterday with 500 British nationals who had been ordered to leave the United Arab Republic.

The minesweepers, from Malta, were H.M.S. Walkerton (Captain A. G. F. Crosbie) and Shavington (Lieutenant-Commander M. L. G. Dane).

In prison camps

The Israel Embassy in London announced that Egyptian officers and n.c.o.s captured in Sinai were being held in prisoner-of-war camps. Other ranks were being taken by motor transport to the Canal Zone and there permitted to cross into Egyptian territory.

A number of Egyptian soldiers who had fled into the desert were now establishing contact with Israel units and being given immediate assistance, including water, said the embassy. Every effort was being made to find stragglers in need of help.

Un Agency Acts On Exodus.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT. Beirut June 13

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 14, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56967.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS84503758

It was not General Dayan's war—he was the instrument of government policy



CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME, Defence Correspondent, who has been reporting the war from Tel Aviv tells the full story behind the crushing defeat of the Arabs

Years of preparation led to Israel victory

Winding down from Jerusalem on the road to Jericho, General Rabin, Israel's Chief of Staff, stopped his car opposite an Army convoy and was promptly mobbed by his soldiers. More than 150 of them crowded round him, seized his hand, beat his back—anything to touch him. One soldier, beside himself with emotion, shouted: "Kiss me, General Rabin, kiss me, I was wounded in the fight for Jericho."

The general has that soldier's shyness which is sometimes mistaken for curtness. His smile is diffident and rare as a migrant. Yet he was plainly moved, although his modesty appeared also to make him feel somewhat embarrassed by the spontaneous demonstration.

Political manoeuvring continued

The episode could be passed off as just another of the scenes of Israel jubilation. But it is worth remembering if for no other reason than that it is already clear that last week's fighting is slipping away into the mist of contemporary mythology with the label of "Dayan's war"—and it should not be so.

It was not Dayan's war. General Dayan was brought back from self-imposed political exile and appointed Minister of Defence just three days before the fighting started. The power of suggestion is such, however, that he is already being lionized as the architect of Israel's fantastic victory.

Many evaluations have been made of General Dayan's contribution to this success which are not in perspective with reality. To be fair to General Dayan himself, he several times attributed the victory to Israel's better trained forces and the better staff work and command which exists, compared with the standards which prevailed at the time of the 1956 Sinai campaign when he was Chief of Staff.

Even during the middle of the war there was little respite from internal political manoeuvring in Israel, and no one could pretend that General Dayan's public modesty is likely to get the better of his political instinct. Neither he nor any other observer could fail to see the great political advantages in the reputation of authorship for the war, even if the available facts do not absolutely support this assumption.

By the time General Dayan assumed office the plans had already been laid, the training accomplished, the tactics largely agreed. In fact, although most observers believed that the waiting posed an intolerable strain on the reservist army in the desert, General Rabin is of the opinion that those two weeks provided just the period of time necessary to prepare the reservists for war. Any sooner and they would not have been fit and ready for battle; much later, and their morale would have been on the way down.

General Dayan probably knew this as well as anybody, as he spent most of those two weeks with the Army, fulfilling a visit which General Rabin had arranged for him some days before the emergency began.

The plan for Israel's attack was beautifully conceived. Its code name was Nachonim, which, translated, means "the daring pioneers". The word is appropriately derived from a legendary leader of Judah called Nachon, who is said to have been the first man to plunge into the Red Sea when he led his tribe out of Egypt.

Intensive study of enemy methods

The campaign was the product of years of patient training, involving the acquisition of suitable equipment for Israel forces, and the preparation of Israel's fighting men to use that equipment. It was not General Dayan who planned Israel's Air Force, who bought the French aircraft which contributed so much to the victory, who designed the two special Israel bombs whose accuracy made the whole unbelievable operation possible.

It was not General Dayan who patiently trained the Army in night fighting, ensured that tank crews were drilled each year to attain the highest accuracy at longest ranges and at night, and practised mobilization exercises and individual training to the point where every man had within him the ability to think and readjust to changing situations. These are the winning characteristics of Israel's armed forces.

General Rabin and Brigadier Hod conducted an intensive study of their enemy's methods—which really meant Russian methods. From this came the Air Force conclusion that the air war would mainly be decided within the first 70 minutes, and this assumption became totally accepted when the Egyptian Army's build up made it less likely that Israel could achieve any conclusive stroke on land alone, certainly not within the time which would be politically available.

The General Staff also realized that the only hope against Egypt's Army was to unbalance it. With their enormous numerical superiority, and their modern equipment, the Egyptians could not lose if they were allowed to stay in fixed defensive positions. Israel forces had to unbalance them with something unpredictable, which turned out to be the preemptive air strike and the swift armoured penetrations achieved mainly by Israel's ability to go on fighting at night.

Automatically set on course for war

General Rabin trained his men for all types of war, as Israel's frontiers with her neighbours called for vastly different techniques. He always believed that Israel could defeat any Arab state, and any combination of Arab states which ranged themselves against Israel. The biggest surprise of the week for him, however, was that Israel managed to achieve all these victories at the same time.

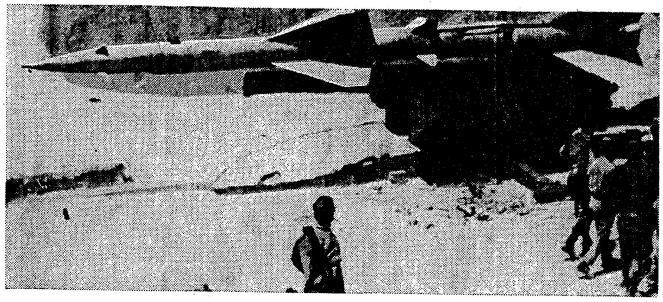
It is true that forces were transferred, first from the Sinai reserve to Jerusalem, and then from there to the Syrian border. Because of Israel's interior lines, however, she had neither the time nor the need to make the fullest use of them in terms of rapid switches in troop concentrations.

What, then, is to be made of General Dayan's contribution? Now, with hindsight, we can see that his appointment in itself was not responsible for Israel's policy of action, but rather a reflection of the fact that Israel was indeed going to war.

What was not known at the time was that the Cabinet was so balanced between war on the one hand, and giving the diplomatic process a chance on the other, that the broadening of the Coalition by the inclusion of General Dayan and the other new Ministers automatically set Israel on a course for war at the time and place of her own choosing.



General Moshe Dayan, photographed yesterday with service chiefs and the Chief Rabbi of the Israel forces during a religious ceremony at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem.



A Soviet SA 2 ground-to-air missile, captured intact by Israel forces in Sinai.

Indeed for many days before General Dayan's appointment Israel was preparing to force the blockade at Sharm el Sheikh with a specially manned cargo ship which was being made ready at the Ethiopian port of Massawa.

Any reference I made at the time to the possibility of a test ship being sailed into the Strait of Tiran to establish an unequivocal pretext for war was categorically forbidden by the censors. Moreover, I have been told on the highest authority that nothing was changed—either in policy or in tactics—between the time General Dayan was appointed and the start of the war.

Once the fighting started, General Dayan's main contribution was most likely to have been in the timing and the political prosecution of the war, rather than on the ground. At the time of his appointment, however, it became something of a distraction which helped to conceal the fact that the Government as a whole, and not just General Dayan the newcomer, had reached its decision.

His press conference soon after that was another episode in this diversionary exercise. Secrecy was essential, but in Israel military circles the word secrecy has almost assumed a new meaning compared to the colander-like security which exists in most of the west.

General Dayan's appointment was probably of most importance in the psychological effect it had not only on the armed services but on the civilian community as well. They knew then that the Cabinet would have the benefit of an active military mind within its councils. This was doubly important for the Army, which had grown restless in the preceding weeks with the apparent signs of indecision which characterized the Government's first reactions to the crisis.

The coming war was expected to be rough, with the Chief of Staff fully occupied. In that event it was essential for the troops to have confidence in the tenacity of the country's political leadership, and that confidence they placed in General Dayan.

There is no stopping General Dayan now. For him the spoils of war will be found as much in the political arena as anywhere. It is he who now makes the speeches, gives the interviews, and pronounces on policy even before his Prime Minister.

Politics may be a capricious enough game to entitle the players to cash their aces when they can. Nevertheless, when the history of the war is written, one can only hope that the acclamation that greets him now, and his current reputations, will not obscure the fact that this war does not belong to Moshe Dayan.

Years of preparation led to Israel victory.
The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 14, 1967; pg. 12; Issue 56967.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS201551054

THE SYSTEM OF AWARDING TV CONTRACTS

From Mr. B. A. Young

Sir,—The shake-up among the independent television programme contractors emphasizes what has always seemed to me the weak point in the present system—the short periods for which the contracts are awarded.

When a company has to arm itself against the possible loss of its contract after only a few years it has to "diversify" by investing some of its profits in other activities. All the profits from a television contract ought to be employed in improving the service to the public, not in helping to found business empires for the shareholders of the contracting companies.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
your obedient servant,

B. A. YOUNG.

Flat 3, 28 Elm Park Gardens, Chelsea, S.W.10, June 12.

Newspaper interest

From Mr. William Hardcastle

Sir,—Your excellent editorial today failed to comment on one additionally important aspect of the I.T.A.'s decisions on the new I.T.V. programme contracts. That is the special care that Lord Hill has taken to include newspaper interests in the contracting companies. This runs quite contrary to the specific recommendations both of the Pilkington Committee and of the Royal Commission on the Press of 1962.

Lord Hill explains his special preoccupation with newspaper investment in I.T.V. by saying: "It seems right to allow newspapers in reasonable proportion to invest in television and, particularly as television grows in importance as a new medium, good newspapers have their qualities to bring to its development".

The future may prove Lord Hill right, but past experience is not encouraging. The *Mirror* group's interest in A.T.V. has not been reflected in that company's current affairs output. Nor is the influence of Associated Newspapers discernible in the programmes of Southern T.V. The same can be said of Thomson Newspapers' relationship with Scottish T.V. One could go on.

Lord Hill's latest decisions mean that the following newspapers will be added to those already holding an I.T.V. interest: *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Economist*, *The Observer*, the *New Statesman*, the *Spectator*, *The Yorkshire Post*, the *Huddersfield Examiner*, the *Halifax Courier*, the *Scarborough Evening News*, and the *Bristol Evening Post*. Only the *News of the World* and the *Liverpool Post*, through the dethronement of T.W.W., have lost their interest, but these exceptions do not invalidate the basic fact that there is now hardly a significant segment of the British press without a vested interest in I.T.V.

Your editorial mentioned the vast powers of patronage of the I.T.A. Extreme vigilance by the press over the disposal of those powers and over the day to day conduct of the I.T.V. network is most desirable. Alas, it is not customary for watchdogs to bite themselves.

Yours, &c.,

WILLIAM HARDCASTLE.

Webb's Farm, Headley, Surrey, June 13.

ISRAEL AND THE ARABS

From Mr. Christopher Sykes

Sir,—I am glad to have confirmed (June 5) the point that Mr. Gilmour "was trying to make: that in the Arab-Israeli dispute, right is far from being wholly on the Israeli side" (June 10).

I have never met anyone who was not a simpleton or a fanatic who disagrees with Mr. Gilmour's point, and this applies to my Israeli acquaintance as well as to the many British and American people, some Jewish, some Zionist, some anti-Zionist, with whom I have discussed the matter. The point is valid.

Mr. Gilmour is in error, however, if he believes that "the ingathering" was not horribly stimulated by anti-Jewish persecutions in the world of Islam. How much more or less horrible these persecutions were than those of Ingun or the Sternists cannot be assessed, I would suggest myself, as a personal opinion, that the Zionist policy of unqualified welcome to Jewish refugees may have prevented a terrible sacrifice of Asiatic and North African Jews, but that since this cannot be ascertained now, let the matter be relegated to the unknown, and the benefit of the doubt generously accorded.

I remain disturbed by the implication of Mr. Gilmour's opinion, and that of U.N.R.W.A., as quoted by him, regarding the moral obligations incurred by the reception of refugees. Arab leaders made claims that they were responsible by encouragement for the Arab flight from Palestine in 1947 and 1948. The claims were ridiculously exaggerated but they were made. Some Arab leaders, conscious of incurred obligations, made strenuous efforts to resettle Palestinian Arabs and to take them out of the demoralizing life of poverty, parasitism and chronic idleness in which they have now lived for nearly 20 years.

Every discouragement and frustration was put in the way of such public spirit. It seems to have been believed that the refugees would be a greater political and therefore national asset if left to rot physically, mentally and spiritually, and thus to increase sympathy. It is terrible to have to admit, after reading Mr. Gilmour's letter, that the unscrupulous men responsible for such a policy seem to have shown some political shrewdness.

Yours faithfully,

CHRISTOPHER SYKES.

Shute House, Donhead St. Mary, near Shaftesbury, Dorset, June 11.

Reassessment needed

From Mr. Somerset de Chair

Sir,—Sir John Glubb (June 10) will perhaps forgive an old comrade-in-arms if I say that his letter reveals an almost masochistic devotion towards the country which dismissed him from the command of the Arab Legion after years of devoted service, and virtually expelled him within 24 hours.

The last letter of mine in *The Times* pointed out the disastrous effect this would have on the British prestige in the Middle East, and the need for strong measures to secure his reinstatement.

In fact, the history of British relations with the Arab states has been one of progressive decline and collapse ever since, and the time has surely come, in the light of recent events, to reassess our attitude to the Middle East. The Jordanian Ambassador complained in your columns of anti-Arab bias in Britain. Who has been responsible for this? Up until 1956 when Glubb Pasha was dismissed, and Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal, public opinion in Britain was predominantly pro-Arab. Since then, the fiasco of our Suez campaign and the outpourings of Cairo radio over the last 10 years have had their effect.

Our friends of former years, particularly among the Hashemite kings, like Abdullah in Jordan and Faisal in Iraq, have been shot. The money we poured into Jordan did not prevent the young King Husain making a disastrous last-minute alliance with Egypt. Our policies in the Middle East failed entirely to keep the oil wells going, the pipelines flowing, or the Suez Canal open when the show-down came. The retention of half a million Arab refugees in camps in Syria, Iraq and Jordan has not provided any solution to this problem, or even contributed to Arab success.

We must now face up to the facts of the situation, which are that a strong Israel, based on the old frontiers of the Palestine mandate, expanded by the Negev and the Sinai desert up to the Suez Canal, is much less likely to fear ensettlement by the surrounding Arab states, and will contribute far more to the stability of the Middle East. Arab nationalism and the desire for revenge could not be any greater than it has been lately, whatever the size of Israel.

After their defeat in the Seven Days War it is unlikely that any leader in the Arab world would contemplate a repeat of their humiliation for at least a generation. President Nasser has shown himself to be a completely unfit custodian of the Suez Canal, and since it was nationalized by Egypt the Israelis could no doubt have seized both banks and held it if they had wished. But it would seem appropriate for the canal now to become nationalized under the United Nations control. This would act as a buffer between the states of Egypt and Israel, and the revenues from the canal might even save U.N.O. from bankruptcy.

Yours faithfully,

SOMERSET DE CHAIR.

St. Osyth's Priory, St. Osyth, Essex.

'The basic realities'

From Mr. D. C. Miller

Sir,—Since the idea of Israel as a "stabilizing influence" in the Middle East has again been shown up as the tragic myth it always was, and since it seems useless to argue the rightness of the Arab case with any hope of being taken seriously, can we not now redesign our policies at least on the basis of national self-interest?

For in the end we have got to come to agreement with the Arab world for communications and whatever oil we still need to buy there.

These are, and always were, the basic realities. It is high time we got back to them.

Yours faithfully,

DONALD MILLER.

University of Ibadan, Ibadan, June 8.

DE GAULLE'S PROPOSAL

From Mr. P. F. D. Tennant

Sir,—Sir Christopher Chancellor (June 12) advocates that the Prime Minister at his meeting with President de Gaulle on June 19 should pursue his suggestion that Britain might become an associate rather than a full member of the E.E.C.

He indicates that a time limit of six months has been set for the present negotiations but that they are likely to be protracted, and that negotiations for association could be short. No time limit has been set as far as I know, and if the Austrian example is anything to go by "association" talks can drag on for years. Only full membership can give industry the assurance it needs for long term capital investment planning.

Is there any reason to suppose that President de Gaulle has any specifically lenient conditions in mind for British association? A sudden reversal of British policy by applying for association even as a stage towards full membership might well seem to him a perfidious attempt to revive the concept of an industrial free trade area which is abhorrent to him; nor has President de Gaulle indicated that association would exclude agriculture. In fact the President's reference to association might well imply that Britain should accept the obligations of the E.E.C. without any of the rights of a full member, and without any risk of British political or economic influence being felt in the Community.

The difference between association and full membership is not a matter of prestige as Sir Christopher suggests but common sense: to accept obligations without the right to influence E.E.C. policy as a full member would be a poor bargain. A move of this nature would surely convince President de Gaulle that we never really meant what we said when we applied for full membership.

Yours, &c.,

PETER TENNANT, Director-General, British National Export Council.

6-14 Dean Farrar Street, S.W.1, June 13.

A NATIONAL LIBRARY

From Mr. Philip Plumb

Sir,—The publication of the University Grants Committee's report of its Committee on Libraries (Parry Report) and your leading article (June 5) are most welcome. In particular, the call for a truly national system underlines the efforts made by the Library Association in its proposals "Access to Information" published in May, 1965.

You say that immediately there is no reason why modernization of the library network should not begin, simply by spending more. Unfortunately, there is a reason and it is even more simply governmental inertia in the matter of library provision. May I remind you of another leading article, published almost precisely seven years ago, on June 2, 1960, in which you said that the announcement of the new National Reference Library of Science and Invention was of great interest because "this important project is now fairly near realization since it is intended to begin the building in 1963 and to complete it in 1965." Your sentiments were admirable but your prophecy unfulfilled.

Not only was the building not started in 1963 but there are today not even any current plans for it and the original site is wanted by the Greater London Council for other purposes. Now, when (and if) a site is found, it will apparently take seven years from sketch plans to the complete building. This intolerable delay stretches back much further, in fact, than to 1960. Substantial improvements in the nation's scientific library services have been urged by responsible bodies and individuals since 1900. Such eminent scientists as Professor R. S. Hutton have repeatedly drawn attention to this country's unsatisfactory position both absolutely and relatively to other countries, notably the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R.

For a time, perhaps, the non-existence of the National Reference Library building was just another nuisance among many. Now it is a national disgrace.

Yours faithfully,

PHILIP W. PLUMB.

North Western Polytechnic, School of Librarianship, Prince of Wales Road, N.W.5.

Israel And The Arabs.
CHRISTOPHER SYKES. Shute House, Dornead St. Mary, near Shaftesbury, Dorset, June 11, SOMERSET DE CHAIR St. Osyth's Priory, St Osyth, Essex and DONALD MILLER. University of lbadan, lbadan, June 8.

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 14, 1967; pg. 13; Issue 56967.

Category: Letters to the Editor

Gale Document Number:CS218852558

Countering the Arab lie

MR. GEORGE THOMSON, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, in a statement on the latest situation in the Middle East, said the ceasefire was now being generally maintained on all fronts.

It was encouraging that General Odd Bull of the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization, played a key part in arranging the final and effective ceasefire, and that the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization observers were now in position on both sides of the ceasefire line.

The Government and indeed the House as a whole had throughout expressed the view that a United Nations presence on both sides of the borders was an essential factor in any long-term settlement. He hoped it would become a key factor of all the border arrangements.

British subjects had been evacuated overland from Syria into Turkey and from Iraq into Iran. Over 300 British subjects were evacuated in American aircraft on Sunday morning from Amman to Teheran, where they were picked up by British aircraft to complete their journey to this country. As far as was known in all these cases the evacuation had been completed without any loss of life. Evacuation arrangements for British subjects in Egypt were in hand, and over 300 left Alexandria this morning.

The Suez Canal remains closed to navigation. Four British cargo ships were in the Great Bitter lake in the canal, together with several ships of other nationalities.

Oil exports from Arab countries were still stopped or restricted. The readjustment of existing supplies, and the high level of stocks in many importing countries (including the United Kingdom), provided a breathing space during which it was hoped the tensions which led to the supply interruptions would ease and more normal conditions return.

It had been made clear to the Governments concerned that the allegations of British and American intervention, which were the immediate cause of the supply interruptions, were completely without foundation. In the meantime the main importing countries and the other countries associated with them in the Organization for European Cooperation and Development were consulting together on the supply question.

The Government were naturally very concerned about the human suffering emerging in the aftermath of the fighting. They were acutely disturbed about the danger of a new refugee problem being superimposed on the existing one. This was, in their view, a practical matter of human importance which concerned the whole international community, and to which the United Nations Organization should address itself urgently.

They had information that large numbers of refugees had already crossed to the east bank of the River Jordan. It seems plain that a relief problem of major proportions was building up. The voluntary organizations in this country were considering what they could do. The Government had agreed to make financial provision for emergency relief in Jordan, and were urgently looking to see what they could provide from British Government stocks in Cyprus as a first step.

U N investigation

LORD BALNIEL (Hertford, C.).—As it is likely that the Egyptian story of British participation in the war will be perpetuated to the detriment of British interests in the long term, what steps are the Government taking to implement its offer that an impartial body should inspect the British carriers in the Far East to make it clear to the world that this story is not correct ?

MR. THOMSON.—The Government are using every resource available to try to pin that lie down. In particular, we are working with those countries in the Arab world with whom we have always had good and friendly relations to convince them they have been misled.

We are pursuing this at the United Nations and, in consultation with the United States, discussing what is the most effective way to a proper United Nations investigation of these malicious and utterly unfounded charges.

MR. HEATH (Bexley, C.).—If the United Nations is not prepared to undertake it, could the Government not arrange it with those countries who are concerned ? If individual governments will not send representatives, could the Government not make these facilities available to the world's press so that they can judge for themselves ?

Urgent action needed

MR. THOMSON.—The offer was first made almost immediately after the lie was broadcast. What we are now actively considering is the most effective way to propose a United Nations inquiry. The important thing is to nail the lie.

MR. HEATH.—But does not the Minister realize the urgency ? (Opposition cheers.) It is a week since this was first broadcast by the Middle Eastern radios, and still to be trying to arrange something is not the way to nail the lie.

MR. THOMSON.—The Leader of the Opposition is less than just to the constant efforts that have been made day by day, by every means at our disposal, to make sure that the truth about this is known throughout the world.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

HOUSE OF LORDS

TODAY, AT 2.30

Motion by the Earl of Bessborough on administration of Government science and technology and liaison with universities.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

TODAY, AT 10

Bermuda Constitution Bill, second reading. Motions to approve Cod Subsidies (United Kingdom) (Amendment) Scheme, 1967, Agriculture (Poultry Carcase) Regulations, 1967, and Agricultural Improvement (Variation of Rate of Grant) Order, 1967.

AT 2.30

Finance (No. 2) Bill, committee.

Countering the Arab lie.
The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 14, 1967; pg. 17; Issue 56967.

Category: Politics and Parliament

Gale Document Number:CS285961422

Fears of Canal ban

There was mounting concern in British shipping circles yesterday over Egypt's reported ban on British ships entering Egyptian ports.

With Port Said and Suez at either end, this could mean technically that British ships would be prevented from passing through the Canal after it had been opened to shipping generally. If British ships had to go round the Cape while their competitors took the short cut through the Canal, severe commercial damage could be inflicted on British lines.

Against a background of uncertainty and conflicting reports—estimates of vessels sunk in the canal varied from two to 10, and when the Canal would be open from two weeks to six months—there was a scramble for tanker tonnage from the Caribbean at sharply higher rates, and an appeal from Mr. Anthony Cayzer, President of the Chamber of Shipping, for a U.N. survey team to go in at once to see what was happening on the Canal.

He stressed that the Canal must be reopened as an international waterway open to ships of all flags without discrimination; and that the Arab ban on ships which had traded with Israel should be dropped.

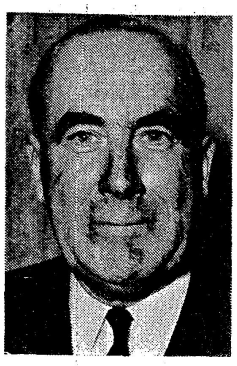
There is also continued unease over the situation of the 12 ships caught in the Canal, including four homebound British ships. Two—Port Line's Port Invercargill and Blue Star's Scottish Star—have a handful of passengers on board.

Egypt has imposed radio silence on the ships since last Friday except for welfare messages, but one vessel reported it was rationing water four days ago.

Fears of Canal ban.
The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 14, 1967; pg. 23; Issue 56967.

Category: Business and Finance

Gale Document Number:CS387542222



Lord Caradon.

Desert drive to rescue Egyptians

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

GENEVA, JUNE 14

The Egyptian authorities have reopened the fresh-water pipeline that runs underneath the Suez Canal, in answer to an International Red Cross request, to help to save the lives of Egyptian Army stragglers in the Sinai desert. Many of them have been without food or water since the weekend.

Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Tel Aviv are investigating the possibility of using helicopters for dropping water and emergency rations to the stranded Egyptians. This would be far quicker than the alternative plan of rescue convoys of chartered lorries, in view of the distances involved. The helicopters could operate out of El Arish.

An official of the I.C.R.C. said today that they were " very deeply concerned " with the plight of the Egyptians in the fierce summer heat, even if their numbers might not be so great as was earlier reported. Estimates are now tending towards hundreds rather than thousands, but no approximate total is yet available.

Lorries and planes

TEL AVIV, June 14.—Hundreds of Israel lorries, in a vast rescue operation, were today collecting the remnants of the Egyptian Army in Sinai and carrying the rescued soldiers to the Suez Canal, where Egyptians took them over into Egypt, authoritative sources said here tonight.

The Israel Air Force is to launch on operation tomorrow to recover soldiers still roaming about in the Sinai desert. Colonel Mosche Perlmann, the spokesman for General Dayan, the Defence Minister, said that Red Cross representatives would take part.

Colonel Perlmann estimated that some 6,000 Egyptians had succeeded in reaching the canal across the desert during the past two days. —*Agence France Presse.*

TEL AVIV, June 14.—Israel today offered to exchange 5,499 Arab prisoners of war against 16 Israelis known to have been captured during the six-day war.—*Reuter.*

Desert drive to rescue Egyptians.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 15, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56968.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17132751

Cairo warning on Canal

From JEAN-PIERRE JOULIN—Cairo, June 14

The Suez Canal will remain closed so long as the Israelis are on the eastern bank, because their presence there constitutes a threat to navigation, Mahmoud Riad told me today in an exclusive interview.

"Our position can be summarized in a few words: To prevent the aggressor from acquiring advantages through the use of force", the Egyptian Foreign Minister said.

"Israel must withdraw its troops behind the armistice lines. If all the countries of the world accept that principle, Israel will be obliged to comply."

He said that the forthcoming Arab summit meeting would take up the questions of a joint Arab stand against Israel and relations between Arab states and the powers that had helped Israel.

He said it was sheer nonsense that a country which had just committed an aggression against another and seized territories by force should talk about peace.

Egypt was defending a principle. If this principle was not accepted in its entirety, peace would always be threatened in the region. Israel had expansionist ambitions. It would always commit aggressions to fulfil these ambitions.—*Agence France Presse.*

Other Middle East news, page 6
Leading article, page 11.

Cairo warning on Canal.
From JEAN-PIERRE JOULIN

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 15, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56968.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17394895

Middle East

Israel tackles task of feeding 900,000

Jordan fugitives returning

From PATRICK BROGAN, Jerusalem, June 14

The Israel authorities are beginning to wrestle with the problem of the 900,000 Arabs in the conquered territories on the west bank of the Jordan. Probably only 80,000 crossed over into Jordan, and now more are returning than are leaving.

Of these 900,000 about 400,000 were classified as Palestinian refugees from 1949, and of these only about 100,000 still lived in camps. Jordan statistics are very inadequate (the Israel statistical office moved into the west bank yesterday to carry out a proper survey) and the figures are very approximate.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency (U.N.R.W.A.) stores have been reopened in the camps and the Army is distributing bread and milk to the civilian population. Israel is undertaking the feeding of the multitudes for the present, but the United Nations Commissioner-General for Arab refugees, Mr. Laurence Michelmore, has been in Israel establishing contact with the Israel authorities and preparing the way for a resumption of U.N.R.W.A. supplies through Israel. He returns to Beirut today.

Transport supplied

The inhabitants of west bank who fled from the advancing Israelis but did not cross the Jordan are now returning home and the Israelis are helping them to do so. Army lorries and buses are being sent down to Jericho to fetch back the people of Jordanian Jerusalem and the surrounding areas who escaped there.

The transport was doubtless welcome—when I was in Jericho on Sunday with some Israel officers they were beset by Arabs demanding to know when they would be taken home.

The Israel authorities think that the movement of the civil population was not in fact very great. They expect no great trouble in resettling those who moved and in feeding them. Oxfam and similar bodies in Britain can therefore rest content. It is probable that the Jordan authorities are in far greater need of help.

By and large, the Jordan refugees are less of an economic problem than those in the Gaza Strip. Refugees in Jordan were to a considerable extent gainfully employed, although they could not earn enough to feed themselves. A steady stream of them, moreover, migrated across the river. Transjordan's population increased by 5.8 per cent each year, of which at least 2 per cent represented immigration from the west bank.

In Gaza, however, the 250,000 refugees vegetate in camps, leading separate lives from the 100,000 inhabitants of the area. None escaped into Egypt; the first objective of the Israel Army when it attacked was to cut off the Strip at Rafah.

The main problem

The areas of Syria which Israel now occupies had been virtually depopulated by the Syrians. Only 2,000 live there, with 6,000 in the town of Quneitra. The Bedu population of Sinai is small and quite capable of looking after itself.

The population and territory of the west bank cannot be separated and for Israel the problem, therefore, is: How many more Arabs can she absorb? To annex everything that she has conquered would bring the Arab population up to 1,500,000, compared with 2m. Jews. This is unthinkable and proof, therefore, that not all the cards are Israel's in the diplomatic battles now beginning.

The United Nations cease-fire observers are now more or less successfully observing and have nothing to report. The staff of the defunct mixed armistice commission set up in 1949 to secure the armistice between Syria and Israel now carry out the simpler task of checking that the new cease-fire is being respected.

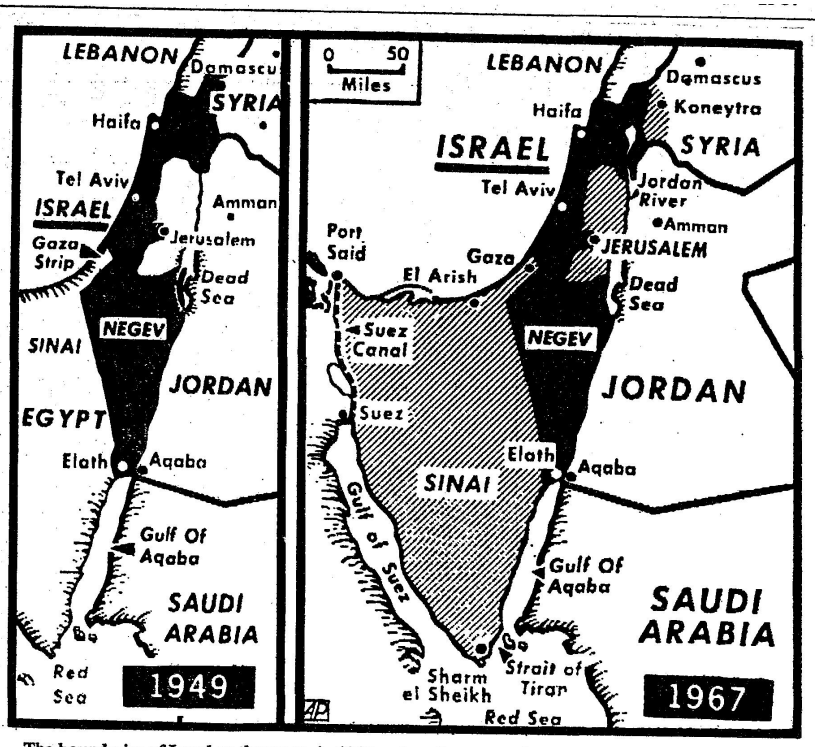
'New Soviet arms for Egypt'

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, JUNE 14

Israel sources asserted today that more than 100 Mig fighter aircraft, as well as some Soviet tanks, artillery pieces and military spare parts have arrived in Egypt since the end of hostilities.

Some of the equipment was reported to have come from Yugoslavia, but it was not clear to Israel sources whether Yugoslavia was supplying the equipment directly or on behalf of the Soviet Union.—*New York Times News Service.*



The boundaries of Israel as they were in 1949 and as they are today can be compared in these two maps. The shaded area indicates territory captured from the Arabs in the recent war.

WIDESPREAD ARRESTS OF JEWS IN EGYPT

From PETER HOPKIRK, Our Special Correspondent recently in Cairo.—Famagusta, June 14

Hundreds of Egyptian Jews are being arrested in a wave of anti-semitism which is sweeping Egypt after her humiliating defeat by Israel.

The mass arrests, which began some days ago as the war began to go badly for Egypt, are terrorizing the 2,600 Jews living there. They fear that, like the British and American, they may be used as a scapegoat for Egypt's plight.

Previously they have felt reasonably secure, as they are Egyptian citizens, and President Nasser has made it clear that he is anti-Zionist and not anti-Jewish.

I am able to report the arrests today because I am now free of the Egyptian censorship. I travelled to Cyprus with 360 British and Commonwealth evacuees on board the Greek ship Marianna V, which reached Famagusta today.

Just before we sailed foreign nationals released by the Egyptian police were still coming on board. Among them were Jews who had been allowed to leave only because they had foreign passports.

One Italian Jew told me: "The Egyptian police are arresting Jews in hundreds". Another man—not a Jew—told me that he had been in prison with a number of Jews and said that 500 were being detained at Abu Zabal, about 30 miles from Cairo.

During the past 10 days in Egypt there has been an almost total black-out of news. The outside world has had little idea what has been happening in Egypt, the Egyptians have even less idea what is happening elsewhere. The full magnitude of their defeat has been carefully kept from the Egyptian people.

The 360 British evacuees from Egypt arrived at Famagusta tired and hungry today after their 20-hour voyage from Alexandria. Many had snatched only a few hours' sleep during the two nights spent on the way, including the train journey from Cairo.

An R.A.F. aircraft circled the ship continuously for several hours today. Two Royal Navy minesweepers had accompanied the vessel through the night. The evacuees were brought ashore by Army tender and driven in buses to the R.A.F. station. They are expected to fly to London tomorrow.

Beirut opens airport after protests

From NICHOLAS HERBERT

BEIRUT, JUNE 14

Beirut airport was opened to international traffic today after an attempt to restrict usage to Lebanese operators had brought protests from British and other airlines.

The Lebanese authorities were reported to have been incensed by a British Embassy notice published last week which made it clear that special flights by B.O.A.C. and B.E.A. from Beirut would be operated on normal commercial terms.

The implication, though unstated, was that some other special flights were being made on a different basis, and instances have come to light in which intending passengers were made to pay extra charges.

Mr. O. J. Green, the British civil air attaché, is understood to have made representations to the Lebanese director of civil aviation, and to have been told that Mid-[illegible]

Israel tackles task of feeding 900,000.
From PATRICK BROGAN

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 15, 1967; pg. 6; Issue 56968.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS100887759

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Widespread Arrests Of Jews In Egypt.
From PETER HOPKIRK, Our Special Correspondent recently

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 15, 1967; pg. 6; Issue 56968.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS101149903

MR KOSYGIN FLYING TO NEW YORK TODAY

Meeting with General de Gaulle on way to UN session

Mr. Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, is due to leave Moscow today for New York to attend the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Middle East. There are indications that the session may be called at the weekend.

The White House said yesterday that President Johnson would be happy to meet Mr. Kosygin if he came to the United States.

Mr. Kosygin is to meet General de Gaulle when his aircraft reaches Paris today. There were reports yesterday that the General might also go to New York.

Britons who were in an hotel in Cairo last Friday, awaiting evacuation, were threatened by Arabs who shouted "We will kill you", one of the British party said at Gatwick airport last night. Three Britannia aircraft arrived from Cyprus, carrying more than 300 British evacuees.

In the Commons it was stated that some 200 other Britons are held up in four ships caught by the war in the Suez Canal.



Miss Munama Shahida aged 13, and her sister Lubana at Gatwick yesterday after arriving from Cyprus. They were members of the British party evacuated from Egypt.

50 IN SOVIET PARTY

From KYRIL TIDMARSH, Moscow, June 15

Mr. Kosygin will be leaving for New York by air tomorrow morning at the head of a delegation of 50 diplomatists to attend the United Nations General Assembly.

Mr. Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, and Mr. A. A. Soldatov, the former Ambassador in London, will be members of the party.

WASHINGTON.—The White House stated that President Johnson would be "happy" to meet Mr. Kosygin if he came to the United States. Mr. George Christian, the President's press secretary, emphasized, however, that Mr. Johnson's attitude to Mr. Kosygin or any visiting head of government would depend on whether U Thant, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in fact called a special session of the Assembly to debate the Middle East.

For the present, Mr. Christian said Mr. Johnson still intended to attend a Democratic Party fund-raising dinner in Austin Texas, and to be host at the weekend to Mr. Harold Holt, the Australian Prime Minister, and his wife.

It was evident, however, from Mr. Christian's remarks that any of Mr. Johnson's plans could be changed if necessary. It appeared that the White House had so far received no official information of Mr. Kosygin's plans.

It is not considered likely that Mr. Johnson will wish to go to the United Nations and become personally involved in a long wrangle over Israel's actions.

An alternative place for a meeting would be the presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland.

PARIS.—It was confirmed here that Mr. Kosygin would stop in Paris on Friday and have a private meeting with General de Gaulle in the afternoon. The meeting is understood to have been arranged at Mr. Kosygin's request, transmitted to the Elysée over the green telephone link with the Kremlin.

Libya calls for closing of bases

The Libyan Government last night sent a request to the Foreign Office that Britain should close such military installations as she still retains in Libya and withdraw all British troops as soon as possible. The decision was announced in Tripoli by the Libyan Government.

British representatives will discuss the request with the Libyans. The British attitude was explained in a statement in the Defence White Paper of February, 1966, which said: "There will be no attempt to maintain defence facilities in an independent country against its wishes."

In Libya there has been much tension and bitterness against the United States and Britain since the start of the Middle East crisis. In normal times public opinion in Libya has come increasingly to realize the enormous advantage to the country of independence from Egypt, now that the development of the Libyan oil fields has turned it into an oil rich country. There are undoubtedly some Libyans who will think twice therefore before knocking from under themselves the Anglo-American prop.

Clearly at the present time violent hatred of Israel has been enough to submerge normal considerations of self-interest in Libya.

For Britain the request, when fulfilled, would mean primarily the loss of dependable overflying facilities via Libya to Africa, south of the Sahara or to the Middle East. For the United States, the Wheelus base, which the Libyans also wish to be evacuated, is an important aspect of United States and therefore of Nato strategy in the Mediterranean so long as heavy bomber aircraft remain in service.

Britons tell of Cairo ordeal

The aircraft which brought the British evacuees home yesterday have been standing by in Cyprus for six days. They were an R.A.F. Britannia and two Caledonian Airways Britannias.

Mr. Ralph Daniell, head of the British Mission in Cairo, arrived with his wife and their 19-year-old son, who had been on holiday there when the war broke out.

"We were coming home next month anyway, but now we have had to leave behind all our belongings, including two cars", he said at Gatwick.

"It was trouble, trouble all the way with the Egyptians, but I cannot praise too highly the way the crew of the Greek ship looked after us and the way the R.A.F. looked after us in Cyprus."

Mr. Fred Cockerill described how he and his family were stranded in Luxor when they were flying in a private aircraft from Uganda to Britain for three weeks' leave.

"We landed at Luxor to spend the night and the next morning were cleared to take off. We were about 15 miles out when the Egyptian control ordered us to return. When we landed we found that war had broken out.

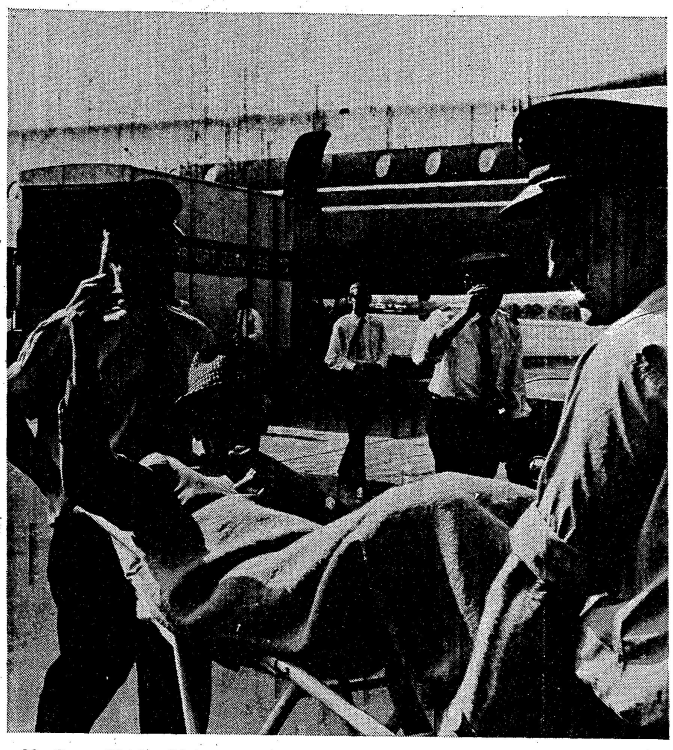
"As we waited at the airport we saw Egyptian bombers coming into Luxor. That day we could see the Israeli bombers coming over. They smashed every plane on the airport except for our little Cessna.

"After that the Egyptians refused to let us take off, so we decided to do a moonlight flit. Eventually we got a train to Cairo."

Mr. Cockerill said that groups of Arabs rampaged through the Nile Hilton Hotel and there were several fights between Arabs and British people. His wife said that on Friday night all the Britons were ordered into the cellars because it was said there was going to be an air raid. "When we came up the stairs again Arabs chased around us shouting, 'We will kill you', but they never touched us."

Sir Derek Riches, British Ambassador to the Lebanon, who has been expelled, arrived in London last night with his wife and daughter. They had flown to Rome on Sunday.

Other Middle East news, page 6



Mr. George Waights, 76, headmaster of Scots School, Alexandria, who has a broken leg, being carried from one of the aircraft which landed at Gatwick with British evacuees from Egypt. He has lived in Egypt for more than 50 years.

MP seeking to control ITV

BY OUR POLITICAL STAFF

All commercial television programme companies should be turned into non-profit-distributing trusts, says a motion set down on yesterday's Commons order paper by Mr. Hugh Jenkins, Labour M.P. for Putney.

"There must not only be an absence of corruption but there should be no incentive to corruption", Mr. Jenkins said last night.

The motion states that tendering by private companies for I.T.A. contracts is open to grave objections. Mr. Jenkins said this had been illustrated this week by the bargaining and recriminations over the renewal or refusal of contracts.

He feels that the present predicament of the shareholders of T.W.W. shows that the public should not be invited to subscribe capital to companies whose good will is capable of being terminated by a stroke of a pen.

"The proposals in my resolution would still leave Independent Television operating exactly as at present", Mr. Jenkins said. "But they would avoid a situation in which fortunes could be made or lost overnight.

The motion is signed by a number of other Labour M.P.s, including Mr. Ian Mikardo, member for Poplar, and Mr. Ben Whitaker, member for Hampstead.

TWW asks for rival's plans

BY OUR BUSINESS NEWS STAFF

Television Wales and West, acting through their financial advi-

CABINET STAND ON STANSTED

'No sentiment' in planning

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Senior Ministers were asserting last night their determination to force the Cabinet's decision on Stansted airport through Parliament. But Mr. Heath issued a Shadow Cabinet statement aligning the Opposition with half the backbenchers in the Commons who signed a motion urging the Government to have second thoughts.

"We believe", Mr. Heath said, "that the Government should suspend action on Stansted and set up a public inquiry into the whole future pattern of air travel in this country, and the economic and social effects of the siting of international airports."

He argued that the inquiry could present its report within a year, still leaving adequate time for the development of a third airport.

After a Cabinet meeting yesterday senior Ministers were in no mood to give ground before the growing clamour of backbench protest. Some of them believe that the whole principle of planning is involved here and that the Cabinet must demonstrate that there can be no planning on the basis of sentiment or of retreat before every local and regional interest that may be involved.

To summarize their stand, they would say that the decision on a third airport for London has already been too long delayed; that though they understand the outcry, any other site they had chosen would have met with equal opposition, and that because Mr. Jay announced the decision just before the Whitsun recess the Government case has not yet been fully heard. At any rate, the Government case is to be heard next week.

Essex appeal

On Tuesday leaders of the Commons campaign against the decision are inviting all M.P.s to

Aberfan men will march to London

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

CARDIFF, JUNE 15

Thirty men whose children died in the Aberfan disaster are to march 167 miles to London, to present a petition to Parliament, protesting at what they describe as the continued delay over the distribution of money from the disaster fund.

Other parents are planning to demonstrate outside the office of Mr. Gerald Davis, the barrister appointed to administer the fund which has now reached £1,742,000.

Mr. Frederick Gray, whose son was killed in the disaster, said that the 30 bereaved fathers would start the march almost immediately, and they would hand the petition to Mr. Gwynfor Evans, Plaid Cymru M.P. for Carmarthen.

Mr Kosygin Flying To New York Today.
The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 16, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56969.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001680

Arabs prepare for summit meeting

African support sought

From NICHOLAS HERBERT, Beirut, June 15

The Arab world today made plans for a Foreign Ministers' meeting in Kuwait on Saturday. Its task, if it takes place, will be to prepare for a summit conference at which Arab leaders can discuss how to salvage something from the wreckage of their hopes.

It is now broadly clear how they plan to attempt this, but there remain lingering differences of emphasis in spite of the unity which war has brought about.

The foreign ministers, it is suggested, might narrow these down for consideration by their leaders at a conference expected to be held in Khartum at the end of the month.

Anti-western strategy

Arab strategy now seems to be concentrated on forcing Britain and the United States to persuade Israel that it must withdraw within its former frontiers. This is considered a minimum requirement, and the assistance of the Soviet Union will be invoked at the United Nations and anywhere else it can be useful.

It is clearly hoped to enlist massive support from Afro-Asian and other countries of the "third world," and French help is also expected.

Today's moves in the Arab world fitted in with this strategy. President Nasser was reported to be in touch with many African leaders, as he already has been with his old allies, President Tito of Yugoslavia and Mrs. Gandhi of India.

He wrote to President Azhari of Sudan saying: "Arab states must consider that their joint battle against Israel has removed all differences between them. They must also resolutely and firmly face the historical battle which we must inevitably wage."

Signs that reconciliation is taking place have been frequent. Today the Syrian Ambassador, who was expelled by the Jordan authorities only days before war broke out, returned to Amman.

Syria and Morocco, which fell out over the Ben Barka case, have also been in touch through Lebanon, and that most fundamental split between Egypt and Tunisia is now a thing of the past.

Indirect pressure

However, there has been no sign that President Nasser intends to amend his Yemen strategy, and Cairo has not given publicity to Saudi Arabia's resumption of oil pumping, even though arrangements were made to exclude Britain and the United States from the recipients.

The announcement in Cairo that the Suez Canal will remain closed while Israel troops remain on its banks is intended to reinforce Arab claims at the conference table. A boycott of British, American, and west German goods and firms, decided on today by the Iraq Cabinet under President Abdul Rahman Arif, is similarly designed to put pressure indirectly on Israel.

Soviet strategy at the forthcoming General Assembly session was presumably the prime concern today of Colonel Boumédienne, the Algerian Prime Minister, who is just back from Moscow, and Dr. Nuruddin al-Atassi, the Syrian head of state, who unexpectedly flew to Algiers for talks. As two of the more intransigent Arab countries, Syria and Algeria have a good deal in common, and the latter has declined to accept the United Nations cease-fire. Both countries have already severed diplomatic and economic relations with Britain and the United States.

Soviet diplomacy has been active in Arab capitals in the past two days, and *Al Ahram*, the Cairo newspaper, said today that President Nasser had received an important message from Mr. Kosygin. There is much speculation here about the Soviet Prime Minister's possible visit to New York, but there has been no indication that Arab heads of government would go to back him up.

Al Ahram said that Egypt's decision to suspend dealings with Anglo-American markets will not adversely affect Egypt's economy, but clearly the last week's events will not help.

The Iraq Cabinet has decreed austerity measures because of loss of oil revenues, and a supplementary budget is reported to be in preparation in Egypt. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Libya will feel the effect of an oil shutdown less quickly, but Algeria's economy, which is none too robust, could be affected.

The big question mark hangs over the future policy of Saudi Arabia and Jordan, which were formerly regarded in Cairo as dangerous reactionaries. The position of King Faisal, who sat out most of the pre-war crisis in London and Brussels, is particularly unclear. Patriotic noises came from Riyadh during the war, and Saudi troops were said to have engaged the enemy.

Tricky decision

King Husain has achieved a sort of martyrdom and, having signed a defence agreement with Egypt beforehand, undertook a large change of policy. Today he accepted the resignation of Mr. Wasfi Tal, his most anti-Nasser adviser, but his country relies for its existence upon Anglo-American financial support.

It has been suggested here that the Arabs would be unwise to sever all relations with the west, and that King Husain might be the man to keep open the lines to London and Washington. His new popularity might make it possible, but it will be a tricky decision given the present Arab mood.

An indication of the King's intentions may be given in his attitude towards Britain's offer of aid for the refugees fleeing from Israel forces, but it is something that there is still a British and a United States embassy in Amman. These are rare in the Arab world now, and it will take much patient diplomacy before relations can be improved to any great extent.

Kuwait said last night that Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, and Syria had all agreed to attend the Foreign Ministers' meeting. Replies are expected soon from Algeria, Libya, and Yemen.

Arabs prepare for summit meeting.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 16, 1967; pg. 6; Issue 56969.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS100887760

FRANCE SAYS ISRAELIS MUST NEGOTIATE

From CHARLES HARGROVE, Paris, June 15

France will not accept as a *fait accompli* the annexation of territory taken by Israel in the recent fighting. That is the gist of a carefully worded statement issued today after a meeting of the Cabinet at the Elysée Palace with General de Gaulle in the chair.

The statement said:

"The Council of Ministers has taken note of the serious political consequences which have resulted in the world, and of the deplorable human consequences on the ground arising from the military action which broke out in the Middle East on June 5.

"For the French Government, which attempted to prevent the outbreak of hostilities, and which, subsequently, made active efforts to bring them to an end, it goes without saying that no *fait accompli* on the ground regarding territorial limits and the status of the citizens of the interested parties can be regarded as final.

"Only a settlement, freely negotiated and accepted by all the parties concerned and sanctioned by the international community could, one day, solve all the problems raised. In this context, France gave her approval to the convening of an extraordinary general meeting of the United Nations."

M. Georges Gorse, the Minister of Information, said after the Cabinet meeting that the aim of France remained peace. "That aim will not be achieved so long as the countries concerned do not wish to come together. On the French side, we are always ready to help them in doing so."

Letting off steam

The point about the territorial changes is understood to apply to all Israel's conquests without exception, including the Old City of Jerusalem. In informed quarters here particular stress is laid on the phrase "a settlement freely negotiated and accepted by all parties concerned". It is understood to mean not only the Arab states and Israel, but the four powers as well.

The reference to a settlement "one day", which M. Couve de Murville was to elaborate a few hours later when he opened the National Assembly foreign affairs debate, just about sums up the degree of optimism with which the French Government views the immediate future.

His reference to the United Nations General Assembly debate as a "normal and spectacular manifestation" means that the French Government regards it merely as a means for all the parties concerned to let off steam. But no action can come of it.

France has no intention of offering herself as a mediator, but when the dust has settled, and some prospect of agreement emerges between the four powers, which in her view is the key to the whole problem, then she might respond to an appeal from both sides to use her good offices.

Mr. Paul Martin, the Canadian Minister for External Affairs, who is making a halt in Paris on his way back from Luxembourg, said at a luncheon of the French diplomatic press today that the world was faced with one of the most difficult international situations since 1945.

"The only hope rests in a combination of negotiations and appeals to common sense and reason, and this cannot be achieved without a measure of agreement between the great powers. They alone can offer the firm guarantees which can inspire confidence.

"The efforts of France to bring the great powers to consult with one another are praiseworthy, and France, in my opinion, must persist along this path."

Flying logs as evidence

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Security rules are being relaxed by the Ministry of Defence to demonstrate "the falsity of recent charges of British collusion in Israel air operations".

In a written answer yesterday, Mr. Healey, Defence Secretary, announced that photographs of Royal Navy and R.A.F. flying logs and routine orders on the days of the Israel air strikes against Egypt are to be placed in the Commons library for inspection by M.P.s.

Mr. Healey commented that "in the interests of national security copies of this type of document cannot normally be made available".

The flying logs will be those of all aircraft carriers and R.A.F. stations within 1,000 miles of Egypt.

Israel tanker reaches Eilat

EILAT, June 15.—The 20,939-ton Israel-owned tanker Samson arrived at Eilat today—the first tanker to sail up the Gulf of Aqaba since it was reopened to Israel shipping eight days ago.

Flying the Liberian flag, the tanker joined four cargo ships which arrived here yesterday. Stevedores, released from reserve duty, were hard at work unloading general cargo from East Africa, the Far East, Australia and New Zealand.

The tanker is owned by the El-Yam shipping company.—*Reuter.*

France Says Israelis Must Negotiate.
From CHARLES HARGROVE

The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 16, 1967; pg. 6; Issue 56969.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS101018832

New moves in diplomatic battle over Middle East

The diplomatic battle over the Middle East continued in several capitals yesterday.

Mr. Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, leaves for New York today as head of a 50-strong Russian delegation to attend the United Nations General Assembly. The Assembly may meet in urgent session as early as tomorrow. Britain will accept the request for a meeting provided there is "widespread support" for the idea.

PARIS.—The French Government has announced that it does not accept the occupation of Arab territory by Israel troops as a "fait accompli".

GENEVA. — Dr. Husain Khallaf, the Egyptian Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, accused Israel of "premeditated genocide". He said that Israel had left tens of thousands of Egyptian troops to perish without water or treatment for their wounds in the Sinai desert.

CAIRO.—President Nasser saw the Russian Ambassador, who was earlier thought to have conveyed to him a message from Mr. Kosygin.

MOSCOW. — Mr. Kosygin was reported to have told the leader of a Japanese business delegation that American aid was responsible for Israel's victory.

TEL AVIV. — Egyptian stragglers in Sinai are being given food and water by the Israelis as well as transport to the Suez Canal. Jurists are reported to be preparing the legal ground for annexation of the old city of Jerusalem.

ALGIERS. — The Syrian President and a Tunisian presidential envoy saw Colonel Boumédienne, the Algerian Prime Minister. The Egyptian Embassy has published a document reiterating the charge of American and British collusion with Israel.

TRIPOLI.—Libya announced her acceptance of the Sudanese proposal for an Arab summit conference in Khartum. Five Arab countries have now agreed to attend: Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

BAGHDAD.—The Iraq Government announced a boycott of American and British merchandise.

TEHERAN.—*Nedayan-Iran-Novin*, the official newspaper of the Iran governing party, suggested that President Nasser should be put on trial for his part in the crushing defeat of the Arabs by Israel.

ADEN.—The South Arabian Federal Government criticized the Soviet Union for "abandoning" the Arabs in their war with Israel.

NEW YORK.—Fifteen members of the United Nations emergency force were killed and 17 wounded in the war, according to a United Nations spokesman.

RAWALPINDI. — President Ayub of Pakistan has asked the four big powers in the Security Council to persuade Israel to withdraw from captured Arab territory.

MADRID.—A cargo of 4,000 tons of flour is on its way to Alexandria, and a further consignment of 2,000 tons is being prepared. These are the first shipments of Spanish aid for Egypt.

New moves in diplomatic battle over Middle East.
The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 16, 1967; pg. 6; Issue 56969.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS101149904

PROBLEMS OF VICTORY DIVIDE ISRAEL

Return of Egyptians continues

From PATRICK BROGAN, Tel Aviv, June 15

Stragglers from the Egyptian Army in Sinai continue to give themselves up to the Israelis. They are picked up at the roadside, given food and water, and driven to the Suez Canal where Egyptian ferries take them across.

There are constant Israel Air Force flights across the desert, and the pilots report the location of any Egyptians they see. They are then collected.

Not all the fugitives are harmless. Many keep their small arms until the last moment and are not averse from using them when the occasion offers. On Tuesday two Israel soldiers were killed by snipers near Mitla Pass.

Soon afterwards 11 Egyptians gave themselves up, and an Israel officer who recounted the incident said that his soldiers wished to shoot the prisoners in revenge for their friends; they argued fiercely with the officer in charge when he insisted on taking the prisoners down to the canal, where they were safely delivered.

Reports in London that Egyptian and Palestinian refugees are in a famished condition in the Gaza Strip are untrue. Mr. Lawrence Michelmore, representative of the United Nations Works and Relief Agency (U.N.W.R.A.), has professed himself perfectly satisfied with Israel's cooperation and with its relief work in areas under its control. He signed an agreement with Israel yesterday under which Israel gives U.N.W.R.A. every facility to carry out its work.

Camps deserted

U.N.W.R.A. food is distributed a month at a time, and the June rations were distributed before the fighting started. Israel has made good the deficiencies of perishables such as milk.

Movement across the Jordan is a simple matter. There are fords, and temporary footbridges constructed on the wreckage of old bridges. A steady trickle of people is on the move.

Refugee camps round Jericho, and villages and farms along the riverside, are still largely deserted. People who fled to the camps from fighting round Jerusalem have now returned to their homes. Those crossing eastwards are generally soldiers and administrators whose homes are on that side, and visitors—including Iraquis and Kuwaitis—who were caught on the west bank. They sign a paper saying that they are crossing voluntarily and are driven down to the river in Army vehicles.

Annexation proposed

The Israel Army is extremely relaxed in the river valley, having little to do amid a small and pacific population. Jordan forces do not show themselves on the other side. The curfew, which is fairly strictly applied in Jerusalem, is little heeded at the front. Relations between the Israel Army and the civil population seem excellent. People returning are merely searched for arms. There is none of the tension which marks the Gaza strip, where sniping continues.

Mr. Eban, the Foreign Minister, is flying to New York to lead the Israel delegation at the special meeting of the United Nations General Assembly. There he will present Israel's proposals for a peace settlement.

The Government is still wrestling with the problems of victory, and is already beset by the same opposition which before the war accused it of reluctance to attack and now claims it will lose the fruits of victory.

The Rafai Party, which broke away from the Mapai under Mr. Ben-Gurion's leadership, is now making a take-over bid for the Mapai itself by proposing a merger.

General Dayan, the Defence Minister and the leading light of the Rafai, is behind the proposal. The old leadership of the Mapai, Mr. Eshkol, the Prime Minister, and his friends are vigorously opposed to it. Politics in Israel are back to normal.

General Dayan and Mr. Ben-Gurion have been trying to commit the Government to annexing the newly conquered territories on the west bank of Jordan. General Dayan has said that a sort of Arab "Bantustan" should be created with control of internal affairs, leaving Israel with defence, security and foreign affairs. Mr. Ben-Gurion has boldly recommended a large-scale Jewish settlement in Hebron.

Task of persuasion

Mr. Eban will certainly not spell out what Israel wants in New York. Government policy is still to settle the Middle East's future in direct negotiations with the Arabs. It has yet to come to grips with the possibility that the Arabs will simply refuse to negotiate.

Only the two super-powers can force Israel to give up her conquests against her will, but she cannot force the Arabs to accept a *diktat* unless she occupies Cairo, Damascus and Amman. This would take 24 hours, but might bring the super-powers against her and force her to disgorge all she has won.

Mr. Eban's task is to persuade the Arabs through the United Nations that Israel's terms are worth considering. This means offering substantial concessions to Jordan and Egypt, and this is what the opposition in Israel will try to prevent.

Demilitarized area

The Government may consider offering to return most of the west bank to Jordan as a demilitarized area with, perhaps, Israel garrisons in places, in exchange for a peace treaty and a joint Israel-Jordan development plan.

There is not the slightest possibility of Israel returning the Old City of Jerusalem to Jordan, or agreeing to the establishment of an international area there. Sinai might be returned to Egypt, demilitarized, with Israel garrisons at Sharm el Sheikh. Israel sees no reason why she should remove herself from Suez for anything less.

Syria is a simpler matter. Israel has no particular need for a peace treaty. Damascus is now at her mercy. Israel intends to stay in Carmel, and if Syria recognizes the situation well and good. If not, Israel will not worry overmuch.



Two nurses in an Israel hospital dress the burns of a captured Egyptian.

Red Cross sends men into Sinai Desert

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—Geneva, June 15

The International Committee of the Red Cross announced today that three of its delegates, Dr. Jean Maurice Rubli, Dr. Edward Leuthold, and M. Marcel Boisard, are now in Sinai to help with the rescue operation launched to save Egyptian soldiers stranded in the desert without food or water.

The committee said this development followed an agreement between it and the Israel Government on "settling as quickly as possible the humanitarian problems raised by the fate of the Egyptian soldiers."

Its delegates at Tel Aviv had reported that some 300 wounded had been picked up in Sinai in the past few days and were being cared for.

Flown from Cyprus

The committee said that yesterday M. Boisard, its delegate in Cairo, has managed to establish contact with the Israel military authorities on the east side of the Suez Canal. He had travelled across Sinai and joined the Red Cross delegation in Tel Aviv.

An official said that 50 wounded Egyptians were flown to Cairo today from Cyprus in a Red Cross aircraft. Another 30 would follow tomorrow. Wounded Jordan soldiers would be repatriated by road.

Mr. Husain Khallaf, the Egyptian envoy to the United Nations office here, today accused the Israeli authorities of pitilessly leaving to their deaths dozens of thousands of valiant Egyptian soldiers, who, after having accomplished their duty in defence of their country, are seeking refuge from the cruel sun, medical attention for their wounds, and water to allay their thirst.

"What possible justification can there be for such an act of premediated genocide?" he asked. He alleged that the committee had been hindered by the Israelis in getting help to the Egyptian stragglers.

The plight of these men, and of the inhabitants of other war-ravaged areas, was the concern of the entire international community: "Confronted by the desert thirst and atrocious privations, we are all equal", he said. He thanked the committee and the Swiss Government for their efforts to bring succour to the men in Sinai.

The World Jewish Congress today sent an "urgent and pressing appeal" to the committee for immediate action "to alleviate the sufferings of the Jews in the Arab countries, and especially those of Egypt". The congress said refugees reported the mass arrest, mistreatment and imprisonment of male Jews in Egypt as well as anti-Jewish actions in Libya, resulting in many deaths.

DAMASCUS, June 15.—Dr. Youssef Zeayen, Prime Minister of Syria, today ordered the closing of all British United States and west German schools, institutes, libraries and cultural centres.—*Reuter.*

Aden timetable to stand

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Office officials are still working on the terms of the statement on Aden and South Arabia promised by Mr. Brown, the Foreign Secretary, for the House of Commons debate on Monday, but it is understood that the policy statement will not diverge substantially from the lines already laid down.

The British Government have promised independence to South Arabia by 1968 and, as last year's Defence Review emphasized, our Aden forces will be withdrawn at the same time.

Cairo flights to resume soon

CAIRO, June 15.—Flights abroad from Cairo international airport will be resumed in a few days, the Middle East News Agency said today. To begin with, they will be limited in number.—*Agence France Presse.*



Egyptian soldiers, cut off in Sinai, plead for water as they surrender to Israel troops.

Problems Of Victory Divide Israel.
From PATRICK BROGAN

The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 16, 1967; pg. 6; Issue 56969.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS101280976

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FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 16, 1967; pg. 6; Issue 56969.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS101412048

BRITAIN IN DARK ABOUT CANAL HOLD-UP

By HUGH NOYES—Westminster, Thursday

An endearing characteristic of the House of Commons is the loyal way in which it always tries to look after its own. Scarcely had the report arrived with today's newspapers that Mr. Eric Lubbock's mother was held up in the Suez Canal than Liberal members were prodding away at the Government for some sort of a statement on the welfare of British passengers caught there by the Middle East war.

It was clear from the answer that Mr. William Rodgers, on behalf of the Foreign Office, gave to Mr. Peter Bessell, the Liberal member for Bodmin, that Mrs. Lubbock and the other 201 Britons marooned in the Great Bitter Lake were fit and well. It was just that they could travel neither backwards nor forwards.

Approach to Israel

But Mrs. Lubbock has unwittingly put the Government in a bit of a spot. Mr. Rodgers admitted that although he knew that there were four British ships in the canal with 261 passengers and crew on board, the Government were very much in the dark about what else was going on. All that had happened, apparently, was that the head of the United Arab Republic's interests section in London had been summoned to the Foreign Office and told in no uncertain terms that it was all quite intolerable.

Except for this unusually daring step, the matter appears to be largely in the capable hands of the Canadian Ambassador in Cairo. Mr. Rodgers saw no immediate danger for the people involved. Sir Alec Douglas-Home wanted to know about injunctions against Egypt and Mr. Duncan Sandys asked for a little more information on how the canal was going to be opened.

Finally Mr. Jeremy Thorpe asked: "Was the canal blocked by sunken ships or merely for political reasons?" Mr. Rodgers did not know precisely why it was blocked.

Such a lack of knowledge at this stage, thought Rear-Admiral M. C. Morgan Giles, was disgraceful. The best idea of the day came from a Tory backbencher who suggested to Mr. Rodgers that he might ask the Israelis whether any ships were sunk in the canal and what could be done to get them clear. Britain was on speaking terms with Tel Aviv if not with Cairo.

In spite of the reassuring knowledge that she has the Commons behind her, it looks as though Mrs. Lubbock may be delayed in the canal for a little while yet.

U S anxious to free ships

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, JUNE 15

The State Department said today that it continued to be "very much concerned" about the blockage of the Suez Canal and was seeking help through other governments to get traffic moving again.

Mr. Carl Bartch, a press officer of the department, said that the department was uncertain how much it would be able to do to restore passage.

There have been reports that two United States vessels are among others blocked in the canal, and officials have said that one of these, the Observer, is carrying a grain shipment for India. The officials reported that they had been consulting with the Indian Government on what action should be taken.

Britain In Dark About Canal Hold-Up.
By HUGH NOYES

The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 16, 1967; pg. 6; Issue 56969.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS101674192

PARLIAMENT

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1967

The Lords: legal action after the pill: Britons in Egypt: fugitive offenders Welsh language in court

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the Woolsack at 3 p.m.

LADY SUMMERSKILL (Lab.) asked the Government whether they had considered the possibility of legal action for damages which might arise from the death of a woman who had been officially encouraged to use the contraceptive pill at a clinic conducted by a local authority.

LORD BESWICK, Under-Secretary, Commonwealth Affairs.—I am advised that legal action for damages against a local authority could only arise if the courts were satisfied that the death or injury of the woman was a direct result of administering a particular oral contraceptive and the prescribing doctor had been guilty of negligence.

It is for the doctor advising the woman concerned to exercise his professional judgment in weighing the advantages in the use of oral contraceptives against other risks that may be material in the circumstances of the case.

LADY SUMMERSKILL.—Am I to understand that the responsibility is put on the shoulders of the poor individual doctor, and the Government are taking no responsibility for this serious step?

LORD BESWICK.—It is unfair to draw that conclusion. After all, it is the doctor who takes the decision to open up a body on the operating table who has to take into account the possible risks.

LADY SUMMERSKILL.—How can the Minister find an analogy there? When a doctor opens a patient there is no alternative. So far as contraceptives are concerned, there are many alternatives.

LORD BESWICK.—We are here talking about the contraceptive efficiency of one method against another. I agree about the doubt which must exist in the mind of any reasonable person about the long-term medical effects of taking this drug. On the other hand we are looking at it as a contraceptive method.

I am advised that it is deemed to be over 99 per cent effective, whereas in the case of one other modern mechanical device there is a 3 per cent failure rate and in another modern method a 6 per cent failure rate. The question is to decide whether you want to accept the additional risk of long-term effects or a deficient contraceptive device.

Evacuation from Egypt

LORD CHALFONT, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, repeated the statement made in the Commons on the four British ships detained in the Great Bitter Lake.

LORD CARRINGTON (C.).—What steps are the Government to take in view of the United Arab Republic statement that they will not reopen the Suez Canal while the Israelis are there?

LORD CHALFONT.—Whether, how, and when the canal will be reopened may not be entirely for the U.A.R. I understand that there are sunk ships and that the canal is physically blocked. If these obstacles are removed, we shall consider the U.A.R. statement in the light of the legal position of the canal, which is an international waterway.

Generally speaking, we believe that everyone who wants to be evacuated from the U.A.R. has been evacuated. We rather thought that about 1,000 British nationals would want to come out but we have news of only about 400. We believe these are all who wanted to leave and that any remaining are doing so voluntarily.

Political offences

The Fugitive Offenders Bill was considered in committee.

On Clause 4 (General Restrictions on Return),

LORD BROOKE of CUMNOR (C.) moved an amendment to remove the prohibition against the return of any person accused or convicted of an offence of a political character.

He said that if an attempt were made to overthrow law and order in a Commonwealth country which was being responsibly administered by a democratically elected government, public opinion here would not be happy about our giving political asylum to the conspirators.

Whatever his feelings about the present Government, he could not believe that it was right that a man who tried to murder the whole British Cabinet should be allowed to settle down in Ottawa, Canberra, or Lagos in complete immunity.

Supposing an attempt were made on the life of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother while she was visiting a Commonwealth country? What would be the reaction of public opinion here if political asylum were given to the would-be murderer? That would be the position if the clause went through unamended.

The Government should accept the amendment and then convene another meeting of Commonwealth Law Ministers to consider whether the exclusion of all political offences from the list of offences for which a man could be returned was desirable.

Freedom denied

The LORD CHANCELLOR said the Government considered that a claim to be a political offender did not afford a blanket protection.

There were all too many countries in the world where political freedom, in the sense in which we knew it, was denied—even in some countries where it had once been attained. All too frequently one learnt of a *coup d'état* resulting in the suppression of political liberty. There have been five in Commonwealth countries since January of last year.

The murder of a head of state was not necessarily an offence of a political character. Such a crime might constitute an upsurge of public opinion against an oppressive regime.

Not so long ago there was a head of state called Hitler. New Hitlers might arise. It was difficult to accept the view that there would never be an occasion when it would not be right not to surrender a particular murderer.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

The committee stage was concluded.

Status for Welsh

LADY PHILLIPS, Baroness-in-Waiting, moved the second reading of the Welsh Language Bill.

She said the Bill removed the limitation on the use of the Welsh language in courts. It would enable Ministers to prescribe Welsh versions of statutory forms when they were satisfied that this was necessary. Anyone wishing to speak Welsh in a court in Wales and Monmouthshire would be able to do so.

This was a sincere attempt to strengthen and dignify the status of the Welsh language, while, at the same time, respecting the rights of those who did not speak it.

LORD BOSTON (C.) asked if an Englishman, elected to a Welsh rural district council which spoke Welsh, would be able to get translations. He knew an Englishman who had served on such a council and the other members refused to translate anything for him. I finally gave it up (he said).

The Water (Scotland) Bill passed the committee stage. An amendment to exclude three areas was carried against the Government by 69 votes to 33, and a fourth area was also deleted without a division.

The Kingston upon Hull Corporation Bill was read the third time and passed.

The Remuneration of Teachers (Scotland) Bill was read the third time and passed.

The Irish Sailors and Soldiers Land Trust Bill was read a second time.

The House rose at 9.58 p.m.

Signs from Rhodesia

MR. EVELYN KING (South Dorset, C.) asked the Prime Minister if he had been in correspondence with Mr. Ian Smith since the conference on H.M.S. Tiger; and also asked:—

Does the Prime Minister accept that if in any future correspondence he may have with Mr. Smith he continues to insist on Nibmar, then failure is certain? Responsibility for that failure will rest upon him. (Opposition cheers, and Labour interruptions.)

MR. HAROLD WILSON (Huyton, Lab.).—I have had no correspondence with Mr. Smith since the conference on H.M.S. Tiger, and I have no plans for correspondence with him at this time.

MR. WINNICK (Croydon, South, Lab.).—What feelers has Mr. Smith just put out to get talks started again, in view of the problems facing his tobacco production?

Would the Prime Minister consider the possibility of a White Paper listing the activities of Opposition members who have had treasonable activities and links with the Smith regime . . . ? (Loud Opposition cries of "Withdraw".)

The SPEAKER.—The hon. member must withdraw the remark.

MR. WINNICK.—I withdraw.

MR. WILSON.—I have had no direct messages from Mr. Smith, or feelers, in the sense mentioned. But in the week since I said to the House that there was no sign that he was interested in any discussions at all, certain signs have become visible, including, of course, the television programme last week.

MR. THORPE (North Devon, L.).—As the 1961 constitution negotiated by Sir Alec Douglas-Home and Mr. Sandys was unilaterally torn up by Mr. Smith, and as Mr. Smith made clear on Tiger that if he failed to get a referendum in his favour he would do a second U.D.I., would the Prime Minister agree that the only guarantee we have to preclude the dishonouring of further pledges is to stick to Nibmar?

MR. WILSON.—It has been made clear to them that if there were a second U.D.I., if, for example, they were prepared to return to the 1961 constitution while the fifth principle was being tested—we made it clear what the position would be after that. We made it clear that some of the assurances we have given in the past could no longer be counted on in that circumstance.

MR. JOHN LEE (Reading, Lab.).—It is now time to have a fixed timetable for the completion of the overthrow of the illegal regime by sanctions. (Ministerial cheers.)

MR. WILSON.—I notice that those who have been saying that sanctions were not working, had broken down, and were a total failure, are very quiet today, in view of the announcement made in Rhodesia this week. (Ministerial cheers.) How far this has affected the new apparent willingness to have talks I do not know.

UAR told canal closure is intolerable

MR. BESSELL (Bodmin, L.) asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for a statement about British subjects on board the four ships held in the Suez Canal and what provision was being made to ensure their safety.

MR. WILLIAM RODGERS, Under-Secretary (Stockton-on-Tees, Lab.).—Four British ships are detained in the Great Bitter Lake, together with several ships of other nationalities.

There are 261 passengers and crew on board, of whom 202 are known to be British.

I have seen reports in the press that the United Arab Republic Foreign Minister has said that the canal will remain closed so long as the Israelis are on the east bank.

The head of the United Arab Republic Interests Section in London has been summoned to the Foreign Office and told that it is intolerable that our ships should be detained in this way. (Cheers.)

We are working together with other Governments concerned and plans are being prepared for evacuation.

Meanwhile the Canadian Ambassador in Cairo, who looks after British interests in the United Arab Republic, has told us that the passengers and crew on board are well. He is arranging for regular [illegible] there not a case for asking our Israeli friends to step over to the right bank? (Laughter.)

MR. BIGGS-DAVIDSON (Chigwell, C.).—Can we have an assurance from the Government that, in their policy with their allies and other friendly nations, they will attempt to secure a permanent basis for freedom of navigation in international waterways according to the Constantinople Convention and the resolution of the United Nations?

MR. RODGERS.—This goes wider than the original question. We are primarily concerned with the safety of the British subjects involved.

Causes not known

MR. SANDYS (Streatham, C.).—Could the Minister say a little more about opening the canal, and not merely confine himself to the evacuation of the British subjects? (Ministerial interruptions.)

If he is not able to make a statement himself will he promise that a statement will be made by the Government, at the first possible moment, about what action is being taken to reopen the canal? (Opposition cheers.)

MR. RODGERS.—I can certainly [illegible]

FINANCE BILL

Higher reliefs sought for aged and disabled: tax treatment of 'know-how'

The Finance (No. 2) Bill was again considered in committee.

MISS PIKE (Melton, C.) moved a new clause (Increase of tax relief for blind and its extenston to other disabled persons) to increase the tax allowance for a blind single person from £100 to £125 and the allowance for a blind married couple from £200 to £250. The allowances would also be given to any other permanently disabled person.

She said the new clause sought to restore the value of the allowance to its original level, and extend it beyond the narrow category of disability of blindness to other forms of disability deserving of help.

MR. FORTESCUE (Liverpool Garston, C.) said the Minister should not trot out again the old arguments which were dog-eared from use by Ministers from both sides. He should come forward with a coordinated scheme for the recasting of benefits available to the disabled under the social service system, so that they were seen to be both fair and comprehensible.

MR. DIAMOND, Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Gloucester, Lab.), said that given that they all had sympathy for the disabled, those who were responsible for the public purse had the job of deciding which was the best way to direct the benefit to the needy.

They should try to give help to people who needed it most. It was undeniable that it was most needed by those who had least.

This was not a clause to help those of whom examples had been given. If it were such a clause it would not be administrable because of vagueness of definition.

The blind allowance was a second or additional allowance. It did not replace the personal allowance which a blind person got. There would come a time when they could move all allo-vances forward. This was a year when the Government were asking everybody to exercise considerable restraint.

The new clause was rejected by 176 votes to 134—Government majority, 42.

Tax reliefs for aged

MR. MAURICE MACMILLAN (Farnham, C.) moved a new clause to raise the limit of tax relief for persons over 65 from £390 to £420 for a single person and from £625 to £675 for a married couple.

Three other new clauses were also discussed—an Opposition backbench new clause dealing with tax relief for elderly people on their building society interest, and two official Opposition new clauses to raise the age relief allowance for income tax and surtax.

If the Chancellor could not go the whole way and treat all the income of people over 65 [illegible]

get judgment, it was not a proposal that the Chancellor could accept this year. The level of these allowances was not unfavourable.

The problem of child poverty was being reexamined by the Government. An undertaking had been given that an announcement about it would be made this summer.

MR. HOUGHTON (Sowerby, Lab.) said it was surprising that June had arrived without any decision from the Government about what was to be done about child poverty.

If child allowances were to be reduced as part of an interlocking scheme with family allowances, it was important to have the job done in readiness for the new P.A.Y.E. codings so that the changed allowances could come into operation at the beginning of the tax year.

MRS. THATCHER (Finchley, C.) said the Opposition would not withdraw the new clause because they wished to register a protest at the failure of Government to say anything about future plans.

The new clause was negatived.

Additional assessments

MRS. THATCHER moved a new clause designed to amend section 5 of the Income Tax Management Act, 1964, so that a person should not be liable to an additional tax assessment.

She said that, under the Act, an inspector of taxes could make additional assessments if he discovered either that a relief had been given in excess or insufficient tax had been charged. That could mean that he discovered he had wrongly interpreted the law.

There could be a case where the taxpayer had made a full disclosure to enable the revenue to make a correct assessment and had a further assessment because a new inspector made a different interpretation of the law. That was taking the power a little too far.

MR. DIAMOND said the taxpayer had the right to have an assessment varied, and the Revenue had the same right. A fair reading of the law and practice would be that there was a slight advantage in favour of the Revenue, which was proper so long as it was slight and exercised with care and moderation.

Discovery was a very wide power, and an inspector could, if he thought he was wrong in the way he made an assessment, raise an additional assessment. The only difference between the two front benches was the question of discovery based on an error of law.

The new clause was rejected by

The Lords: legal action after the pill: Britons in Egypt: fugitive offenders Welsh language in court.
The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 16, 1967; pg. 7; Issue 56969.

Category: Politics and Parliament

Gale Document Number:CS117664976

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The head of the United Arab Republic Interests Section in London has been summoned to the Foreign Office and told that it is intolerable that our ships should be detained in this way. (Cheers.)

We are working together with other Governments concerned and plans are being prepared for evacuation.

Meanwhile the Canadian Ambassador in Cairo, who looks after British interests in the United Arab Republic, has told us that the passengers and crew on board are well. He is arranging for consular officers of the Canadian Embassy and the British Interests Section to make contact with the ships and the shipping agents have told us that steps are being taken to provide the ships with food supplies.

Ensuring safety

MR. BESSELL.—Have the Red Cross been invited to assist in the evacuation of these British subjects? Is the Minister quite satisfied that there is no danger to them in the present situation?

MR. RODGERS.—It is impossible to give a categorical answer, but our best information is that the people involved are as well as can be expected, and we see no immediate danger to them.

We have to find the best means by which evacuation can be accomplished, if that has to be done sometimes the more dramatic course is not necessarily the one to ensure the safety of the people involved.

SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME (Kinross and West Perthshire, C.).—Has not Egypt accepted the jurisdiction of the International Court in this matter? Has it not been open to the British Government and other Governments to apply for an injunction to compel Egypt to open the canal?

MR. RODGERS said this was precisely the sort of matter to which they were trying to find a clear answer.

MR. PAGET (Northampton, Lab.).—If the Egyptians insist on defying international law is there not a case for asking our Israeli friends to step over to the right bank? (Laughter.)

MR. BIGGS-DAVIDSON (Chigwell, C.).—Can we have an assurance from the Government that, in their policy with their allies and other friendly nations, they will attempt to secure a permanent basis for freedom of navigation in international waterways according to the Constantinople Convention and the resolution of the United Nations?

MR. RODGERS.—This goes wider than the original question. We are primarily concerned with the safety of the British subjects involved.

Causes not known

MR. SANDYS (Streatham, C.).—Could the Minister say a little more about opening the canal, and not merely confine himself to the evacuation of the British subjects? (Ministerial interruptions.)

If he is not able to make a statement himself will he promise that a statement will be made by the Government, at the first possible moment, about what action is being taken to reopen the canal? (Opposition cheers.)

MR. RODGERS.—I can certainly give an undertaking that on the larger question we shall make a statement as soon as we have something useful to tell . . .(Opposition cries of: "Not good enough.") I do not think we can possibly make a statement earlier than the moment when we have something helpful to say to the House. (Laughter.) I thought I was saying "yes" to the right hon. gentleman.

MR. THORPE (North Devon, L.).—Is the Minister's information that the canal is blocked by the presence of sunken ships as alleged, or merely for political reasons?

MR. RODGERS.—It is not possible to know precisely why it is blocked at present. (Opposition cries of: "Why not?") I think the information available to the House is the same as that available to the Government on this point. But we have, irrespective of what the original cause may have been, the remark made by the U.A.R. Foreign Minister that the canal will remain closed as long as the Israelis are on the eastern bank.

LORD BALNIEL (Hertford, C.).—Surely it is time to confirm that the 1951 resolution imposes an obligation on the Security Council to keep international waterways open?

MR. RODGERS.—Whatever the obligations are our immediate purpose is to see how we can best help 202 British subjects who are stranded. I hope nothing will be said in this House which will in any way make that more difficult. (Ministerial cheers.)

Topics for next week

MR. CROSSMAN, Lord President of the Council (Coventry, East, Lab.), announced the following business for next week.—

Monday. — MORNING.—Bermuda Constitution Bill and Public Works Loans (No. 2) Bill, second reading.

AFTERNOON.—Debate on Aden. The Aden, Perim and Kuria Muria Islands Bill, second reading. Gas (Borrowing Powers) Order. The Anchors and Chain Cables Bill, second reading.

Tuesday. — Leasehold Reform Bill, remaining stages.

Wednesday. — MORNING. — Motions on the Agricultural Investment (Variation of Rate of Grant) Order, and other orders. Marine, &c., Broadcasting (Offences) Bill, Lords amendments.

AFTERNOON. — Finance No. 2 Bill, committee. Decimal Currency Bill, remaining stages.

Thursday.—Debate on the D notice system. Iron Casting Industry (Scientific Research Levy) Order.

Friday.—Sexual Offences (No. 2) Bill, and Criminal Law Bill, remaining stages.

Sachsenshausen debate

MR. MOLLOY (Ealing, North, Lab.) asked for an assurance that the House would be able to debate the issue of the Sachsenshausen concentration camp, which was being referred to the Parliamentary Commissioner.

MR. CROSSMAN said it was right that the Parliamentary Commissioner should investigate the case. Since it raised widespread interest it would be fair to give an assurance that, whatever the Commissioner recommended, the House should consider it and the situation that arose from any recommendation.

MR. NEAVE (Abingdon, C.) said he had today submitted the Sachsenshausen camp case to the Parliamentary Commissioner. He could report within a few weeks.

Business in the House of Lords will be:—

Monday.—Civic Amenities Bill, committee, National Health Service (Family Planning) Bill, committee. Question by Lord Popplewell on tunnel motorways in built-up areas.

Tuesday.—Dangerous Drugs Bill, second reading. Shipbuilding Industry Bill, committee. Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, committee. Question by Lord Brockway on action to restore the peace in Nigeria.

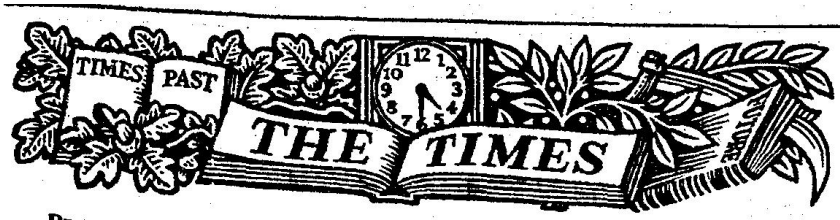
Wednesday.—Motion by Lord Salisbury on Rhodesia. Question by the Earl of Kinnoull about the railways' share of freight traffic.

Thursday. — Road Transport Lighting Bill, second reading. Wireless Telegraphy Bill, second reading. Motion by Lord Ogmore on security in Hongkong.

UAR told canal closure is intolerable.
The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 16, 1967; pg. 7; Issue 56969.

Category: Politics and Parliament

Gale Document Number:CS118058192



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FRENCH MOTIVES IN MIDDLE EAST

The firm statement of the French Government yesterday, that they had no intention of regarding the Israel occupation of Arab soil as a *fait accompli*, is perfectly consistent with their policy towards the whole Middle East crisis—and, indeed, the Middle East itself. They resisted American and British pressures to join in taking a stand over Egypt's closure of the Gulf of Aqaba. They are now resisting Anglo-Saxon haste over the actions America is pressing the O.E.C.D. to take to secure supplies of oil to the West while the Arab embargo and blockage of the Suez Canal continue. They may argue, with some complacency, that the French waiting policy was right in the first case and it is probably right in the second.

But it raises other suspicions, for the French can afford to wait: they have not been associated with the Israeli attack, have not been embargoed, and in any case have a close link with their major source of crude oil, Algeria. It is a good moment discreetly to champion the Arab cause and gain some political ground there. And this, too, is consistent with French policy in recent years. They have missed few chances to gain little footholds when they were offered.

It seems probable that the main motive is the very Gaullist wish to re-establish French influence where possible. Links between France and the Middle East were once strong and the traditional *gloire* that is being so assiduously breathed back to life is very much one of cultural ascendancy, rather than commercial.

Yet it is hard not to be impressed with the convenience of cultural *gloire* and oilfields coinciding so neatly—and, at the same time, with France's imperative need to diversify her sources of oil. As a bedfellow, Algeria has her uses, but most give some pretty restless nights. Also, it has always irked the Government that France has no major international oil companies to call her own. Hence a series of deals with Arab countries—mostly by the state oil company Erap—whose motive seems sometimes (as in Saudi Arabia) wholly uncommercial. Anything to get in.

Not that the French would be so undiplomatic as to attempt what the Italian state oil company has attempted in Libya, and take over the concession of some promising, expropriated tract of another company's land. But there are useful victories to be gained short of that. The extension of French influence, political and cultural, is one, and probably the major one. To gain for French companies an inside track in any future negotiations—particularly in the mood of anti-American and anti-British feeling that is already sweeping the Arab world—would be another, and some might say more practical.

French Motives In Middle East.
The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 16, 1967; pg. 25; Issue 56969.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS419654864

Still a chance of big four summit

The diplomatic manoeuvring over the Middle East was dominated yesterday by Mr. Kosygin's meeting with General de Gaulle in Paris. The Russian Prime Minister later flew to New York where the emergency session of the United Nations General Assembly begins today.

Other heads of state will also be present and President Johnson has said he would be glad to meet Mr. Kosygin. Mr. George Brown will fly to New York on Monday. The possibility of a big four conference to discuss the Middle East situation has also been raised.

GENEVA.—The Red Cross reported an improvement in the Sinai where rescue work was now intensive enough to justify the hope that most of the remaining Egyptian stragglers could be regrouped and fed within hours. The United States has offered the use of aircraft to drop water to the men.

NEW YORK.—The United Arab Republic's delegate to the United Nations has accused Israel of acting "in an inhuman manner" towards Egyptian soldiers and civilians after the cease-fire.

CAIRO.—President Nasser saw the Syrian President, who called in on his way home from Algiers where the Syrian and Algerian leaders were reported to have reached a complete identity of views.

It was also reported that between 15 and 17 ships are stranded in the Great Bitter Lake halfway along the blocked canal. The passengers are to be evacuated.

TEL AVIV.—General Moshe Dayan, the Defence Minister, called for stronger political leadership in the "tough" political struggle now facing Israel. Mr. Eban, the Israel Foreign Minister, accused the Soviet Union in a broadcast of doing its utmost to prevent peace agreements from being concluded by Israel and her Arab neighbours.

The Israel Government has also offered to exchange nearly 5,000 Arab prisoners in return for 16 Israelis held in Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon.

ADEN.—The United Arab Republic has withdrawn 15,000 troops from the Yemen since Monday, according to the South Arabian Broadcasting Service.

KUWAIT.—The meeting of Arab Foreign Ministers takes place today.

BEIRUT.—A representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross has said that nearly 40,000 Syrians have been driven from their homes because of the war. Between 4,000 and 5,000 have found refuge in the villages of south Lebanon.

BONN.—The Foreign Ministry denied a Russian news agency report that west Germany had supplied arms to Israel this year and trained Israel soldiers in the use of nuclear weapons.

RABAT.—Three daily newspapers were seized by police. No official reason was given, but it is thought it was because they published anti-semitic propaganda.

Still a chance of big four summit.
The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 17, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56970.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68775121

'Go it alone' diplomacy now for Israel

From PATRICK BROGAN—Tel Aviv, June 16

Israel is beginning to recognize the difficulties that her delegation to the special Assembly session will face. An editorial article in *Davar*, a pro-Government paper, remarks that the political shelling of Israel by the Arabs and their friends has only just begun

Mr. Kosygin's purpose is thought to be to give Egypt a "diplomatic umbrella" and Israel must be prepared if necessary to face the diplomatic battle alone.

No one here has any doubt that Israel will do as well on the diplomatic front as she did on the military one, but the Arab propaganda offensive, designed to show that Israel's victories were somehow unsporting and should therefore be renounced, is having its effect.

Indeed *Hayom*, a right-wing newspaper, says that Israel propaganda should be improved to demonstrate that the tragedy of the refugees is the Arabs' fault, not Israel's.

Israel meanwhile reverts to normal with the same speed that it mobilized last month. The streets are now crowded with bronzed young men, many of whom have been abroad for the first time, to Egypt, Jordan, or Syria. Shops have reopened, waiters have reappeared in hotels and restaurants, taxis are again obtainable, and many buses are running.

Work has been resumed on the new and vastly expensive British Embassy, which should be finished by the time it is decided to transfer all embassies to Jerusalem. Foreign journalists, who numbered more than 700 at the height of the war, have now mostly departed and tourists are returning.

Israel has yet to count the economic cost in lost production, revenue, and tourist income from the war and the wait for it. But the victory has sent the stock exchange soaring and the black market dollar rate tumbling.

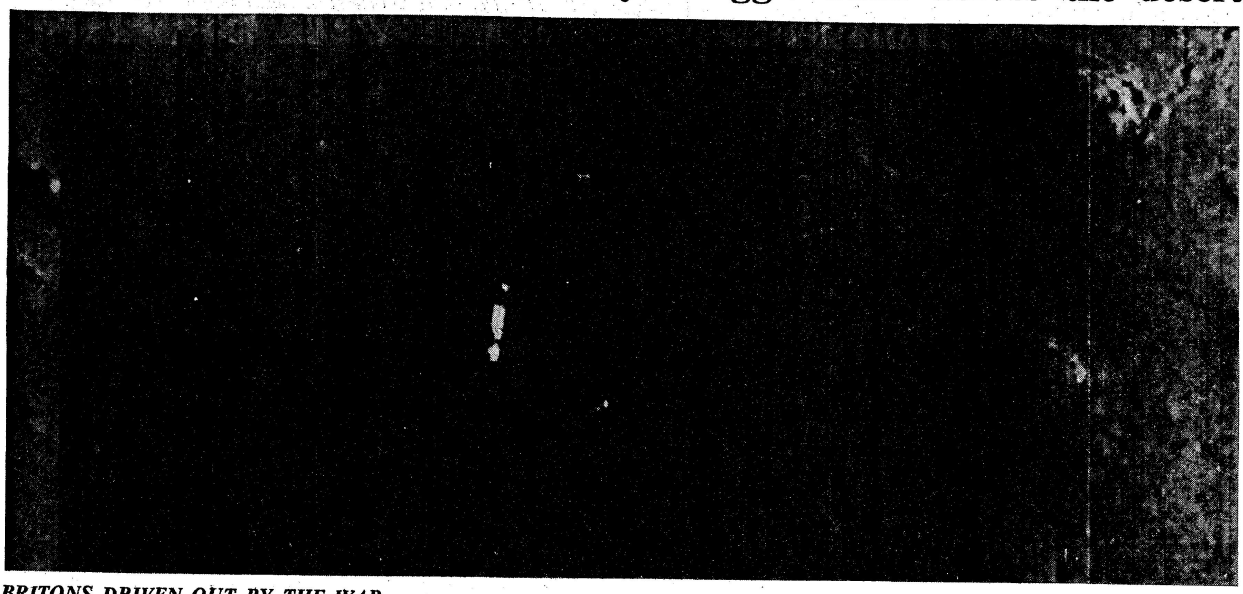
'Go it alone' diplomacy now for Israel.
PATRICK BROGAN-

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 17, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56970.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS69168337

The remnants of a defeated army struggle back across the desert



BRITONS DRIVEN OUT BY THE WAR

Uprooted, no address and no identity

By PHILIP HOWARD

War drives the refugees around the world like dead leaves—not all of them over the Jordan. The first British evacuees from Egypt have been blown back to this country. Yesterday 45 of the fugitives had finished up for the moment in a Surrey County Council old people's home near Redhill: a gaunt, red-brick barracks, a million miles in atmosphere from the pyramids and the palm trees.

The refugees come in all shapes and sizes. Many of them are middle-aged and female, and most have lived in Egypt all their lives: Greek wives of English husbands, widows, women who have not seen their English fathers since they were babies, wives of schoolmasters who have lived in Alexandria for 50 years.

Not all of them speak much English. There is chatter of French in the unaccustomed corridors. Suitcases, labelled in Arabic, bulge out of their straps. They stand in a temporary pile, waiting for a destination. The evacuees were allowed to bring only 20 kilogrammes each (about 44lb.) out of Egypt, and only £3.

Stephen, a dark, shy boy of 16, says in the careful English he was studying in Alexandria before the war broke out: "When we went to the bank to change some money they threw us out. Everybody knows that we are English, and they hate us."

Bleak panic

A tremulous old lady says: "Don't put our names in the paper, we want to go back one day. And we have left relations behind there."

"What are they going to do with us?" asks her friend in a sudden bleak panic.

"They will take care of us", the old lady says, with a touching faith in her country, which she had never visited before. Another is hunting desperately for somebody to drive her to the hospital where her husband has been taken. She has no money, no friends in Britain, nowhere to go.

"We left everything behind, everything—our home, our furniture, my clothes, my jewels. It was terrible in Alexandria, terrible. The mob killed a man, smashed him, just because he had a pale face and blue eyes. He turned out to be an Egyptian." Her eyes filled with tears.

All of them feel the cold, and huddle in overcoats, even though it is quite a decently warm June day. "This would be the coldest day of the year in Cairo", young George said, shivering in his tropical T-shirt.

A woman says she hopes she will be allowed to live in London "because it's warmer than the North, isn't it?" She says she must find some permanent place where she can write and receive letters. "All this moving—I feel lost, without an address, without an identity." She makes cup after cup of Turkish coffee, as if it is the last stable straw in a drowning world. She had to leave her 10-year-old cat behind beside the Nile. Her sister has stayed behind in Egypt because of her Dobermann Pinscher dog.

Kind enough

All except the young men hope, without much hope, to go back to Egypt one day. "Before, they were kind enough: we must say it, they are not bad people in their hearts", the old lady explains. "It is exceptional now because their pride has been affected in a terrible way."

"Yes", her friend says, "when they go mad it's all of them against one. They must be a thousand against one. There are plenty of nice people, the educated ones. But after the cease-fire I asked an Egyptian officer if there would be a blackout tonight. And he said, 'Yes, so we can come into your houses, and drink your blood'." She had lived in Alexandria for 40 years.

Another is weeping silently, interminably, for the mother she left behind her. "You can be married and everything, but your mother is still the best thing in the world." She has not seen her father since she was 18 months old. He lives in Oxford, and has written to say that his pension is too small for him to support her.

A plump, jolly-hockey-sticks woman rehabilitation officer in spectacles came bristling in. "Now can I fill up some forms? Aren't I a nuisance? Are you a Mrs. or a Miss? And what is your address?"

"I have no address, except there", one of the refugees says, pointing at her battered suitcase.

Outside in the dusty car park four refugee children are playing, and shouting happily at each other in French. They are throwing the first fir cones they have ever seen. They laugh. The sun shines, Redhill looks almost beautiful. It is all a great adventure.



The British refugees at breakfast in the Surrey old people's home yesterday.



One of the Egyptian soldiers who walked out of Sinai helped by a nurse before repatriation to Egypt.

Exhausted but lucky –he escaped

Exhausted, hungry men, feet swollen, clothes tattered . . . the remnants of the Egyptian Army are struggling across the scorching sands of the Sinai Desert. They stream into the shell-shattered town of Qantara beside the Suez Canal, and here Israelis, whose troops now occupy the town, are cooperating with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent to get the stragglers home.

About 5,000 have been sent across the Canal in the past two days, hobbling into launches to make the 200-yard crossing to their own lines. Another 1,000 wait under armed guard at a camp outside the town to make the journey back, and others are still coming in, trudging along the road and railway line.

They are the lucky ones, the ones who escaped a lingering death from heat and thirst in the Sinai Desert. They survived the tortures of the desert and now, a few steps away, lies a boat that will take them back to their countrymen across the Suez Canal.

JOHN WOODCOCK

Magic of Lord's—even without the Tavern



It is no use arranging to meet a friend on the Tavern forecourt, as it used to be called, or under the Clock Tower boxes for next week's Test match against India at Lord's. If you do, you will find yourself hidden by boarding from a view of the play and in the way of men working on the new stand, which it is hoped will be finished by the start of the 1968 cricket season.

The Tavern today means the felicitous way they generally manage, when they come there, to be at their best, at least for a time. The Australians are still the toughest of them all and their feathers the most prized. Only a pair of Australians would spend the day on their feet, barracking from the stand reserved for Members' friends. And only Keith Miller, two of whose many friends they were, would have put them there in the first place.

West Indies beat England for the first time over here. That was in 1950, when the calypso writers set Ramadhin and Valentine to music, and gaiety and passion broke loose. It was the start of the West Indies rise to power. On their next tour, in 1957, Everton Weekes played so magnificently on a flying wicket that Mr. Ronnie Aird, secretary of the M.C.C., wrote on the club's behalf to congratulate him.

In 1963 came the epic match

The remnants of a defeated army struggle back across the desert.
By PHILIP HOWARD

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 17, 1967; pg. 10; Issue 56970.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS167996625

WHEN NASSER LOOKS SOUTH

PRESIDENT NASSER, reasonably sure of the solidarity of the Arab and Mahgreb countries in the negotiations over Israel which lie ahead, is also hoping for a massive Afro-Asian vote in the United Nations. An important part of his policy has been to harness African opinion to his policy for the Middle East through the membership of the U.A.R. and the North African states in the Organization of African Unity. He has ceaselessly argued that the struggle of Arab nationalism is a part of black Africa's struggle against "imperialism and neo-colonialism". He has backed pan-Africanism undiscriminatingly. He must now hope for some return.

He would have got it two years ago. The pace was then set by the African militant leaders—NKRUMAH, BEN BELLA, SÉKOU TOURÉ and JULIUS NYERERE. They had their differences with him over the leadership of Africa, but they were his friends against the western world. Algeria on the Israel issue remains with him, and so does PRESIDENT SÉKOU TOURÉ, who sticks to the anti-imperialist line while his country benefits from the efforts of capitalist companies. In general, the Saharan Muslim countries, including Mauritania, have sunk their differences and rallied to Egypt. Sudan has once more broken relations with Britain, restored after the Rhodesian issue, and is to be the venue of the Arab summit meeting. Egyptian influence there is probably greater now that MR. M. A. MAHGOUB has replaced SADDIK AL-MAHDI as prime minister. He is closer to the leaders of the traditional religious sets.

In Somalia, too, the Arab defeat has rallied sentiment which has long been somewhat anti-Egyptian. The new president, MR. SHIMARKE, is friendly to PRESIDENT NASSER, as he is also to the communist world. But in six months he is likely to choose MR. MUHAMMED EGAL as prime minister in succession to MR. ABDIRAZAK, and MR. EGAL would be by no means so committed. The Somalis have Israel to thank for a demonstration that frontiers can be changed, if need be by force. It is an example they wish to emulate in relation to Kenya and Ethiopia.

Elsewhere in Africa PRESIDENT NASSER'S friends have become lukewarm. French-speaking Africa, including the Muslim states like Chad and Niger, are certain to take their general line from PRESIDENT DE GAULLE. They may vote formally with Egypt, but they are sceptical. In East and West Africa since the fall of PRESIDENT NKRUMAH there has been disinterest in Middle Eastern politics. The differences between Arab Africa and Black Africa have again become more visible, illustrated by Sudanese treatment of the Africans in the south. Internal troubles and military takeovers have helped at once to turn Black African states inwards on themselves and to increase their concern with western aid.

Egypt has strongly backed the African liberation movements and parties against Portugal, Rhodesia and South Africa. So, however, has Israel, whose diplomacy everywhere south of the Sahara has foiled or blunted Egyptian influence. Israeli technical aid has been, though inexpensive and unspectacular, efficient and well tuned to the needs of underdeveloped areas. In the past weeks Egyptian accounts of the war have been quietly debunked in several African capitals by Israeli diplomatists, the reliability of whose information in the past has won African trust.

In the south the war has strengthened the case, such as it is, for regarding South Africa as vital to the western sea route round the Cape. But Africans are as likely to blame Egypt as Israel for this turn of the screw. Egyptian cries that their defeat is wholly to be blamed on a common imperialist conspirator will be acceptable to some African left-wingers, seeking their own ends, but is likely to be treated with reserve by increasingly realistic African governments, whose vote in the United Nations is a poor index to their real feelings of readiness to serve alien causes.

AN INCURABLE NOSTALGIA

It seems that the English will never forget the music-hall. The names of its stars, with the songs that they sang and even some of the jokes they made, linger with us. Only a few days ago MR. COLIN MACINNES published the latest of its numerous histories.

Its permanent appeal is not surprising. The type of entertainer who made the music-hall exciting is a continuing force in our stage life; somehow or other, savagely handicapped, it still makes good in the days of radio, television and the cinema. It is a type which deals in the exploitation of personality, in warmth, friendliness and good humour, so that its best material was designed to enable a personality to project itself, and even now that the music-hall has gone that specially English type of entertainer finds somewhere a place from which to amuse us.

None of this, however, explains the nostalgia with which, pampered with every sort of entertainment, we look back to the Good Old Days; under the arches of Charing Cross Station we pretend that we really live in the nineties or, in Leeds, adopt fancy dress and whiskers. Radio and television have been flattering us for some time that we are people blessed with a certain degree of sophistication, so that it seems odd that the nostalgia persists.

It would be contrary to recorded fact to pretend that a good deal which happened on the music-hall stage was not as drab as a good deal which passes for light entertainment on television, but the music-hall audience found itself in the presence of personalities larger than life, capable of acting a friendly joviality even when they did not really feel it. These qualities in the nature of things are rarely transmitted by the television screen.

A music-hall audience was, too, a community united by its participation in the show, which it cheered or booed, at which it laughed or with easy sentiment wept. Churchills and Sitwells were, if only briefly, at one with butchers, bakers and candlestick makers, for the warmth which came from the stage was radiated by those in the audience who were enjoying themselves. We sit in front of a television screen, conscious from time to time of a studio audience which laughs too little or too long, too loudly or too late at mere images; we are made aware of our isolation by the medium which we expect to dispel it.

When Nasser Looks South.
The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 17, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56970.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS184904913

Letters to the Editor

MAGNANIMITY IN MIDDLE EAST VICTORY

From Mr. Marcus Sieff

Sir,—On May 19 Ahmed Said, President Nasser's official spokesman, talking about the coming battle against Israel said—"this time we shall show no mercy, women and children included". This is one of the many similar statements made by Arab leaders and spokesmen referring to the war of extermination against Israel.

Last Saturday I was in the Old City of Jerusalem and on Sunday in Sinai, Gaza, and El Arish. In the Old City, the holy places, Christian, Moslem and Jewish, were in the hands of their respective religious authorities. The Israel Government announced that there would be free access to members of all three faiths, unlike the 19 years when under Jordanian rule no Jews were allowed to visit their holy places.

In the Old City, the Gaza Strip with its 450,000 Arabs and El Arish, the Israel military authorities were doing all they could to restore essential services and feed the Arabs. Despite terrorist activities in which three Israeli soldiers restoring essential services were killed on Saturday morning there were no reprisals; nor were there in Hebron where terrorists murdered six Jews on Friday. In the Old City, Arab shops had reopened and many Arabs who had fled during the fighting were returning.

As one Arab notable of Jericho said to a member of the Knesset when free bread and milk were being issued to the Arabs—"I can't understand you Jews. It would have been a very different picture had we Arabs been victorious."

I was appalled to see that President Nasser had done nothing in 19 years for the Arab refugees in Gaza except use them as a political pawn keeping them in poverty. He not only refused the Israel Government's pleas that he should cooperate to work out a peace treaty to include the solution of the Arab refugee problem but also the pleas of his brother Arab rulers of which the following are three examples:

1. The Foreign Minister of Iraq told a party of American newspaper correspondents (*Rose el Yussef*, Cairo, April 8, 1957):

"The refugee problem is being used by Egypt as a political football. Iraq alone is capable of absorbing all the Arab refugees. In Iraq there are wide expanses of uncultivated agricultural lands waiting to be tilled."

2. King Hussein in an interview with the *Associated Press*, Amman, January 17, 1960:—

"Since 1948 Arab leaders have approached the Palestine problem in an irresponsible manner. They have used the Palestine people for selfish political purposes. This is ridiculous, and I could say, even criminal."

3. On May 10, 1964, the Egyptian monthly *Binaa El-Watan* reported that President Aref of Iraq had requested President Nasser to place at Iraq's disposal some two million fellaheen and so help to solve Iraq's chronic shortage of labour. Despite Egypt's own labour surpluses, particularly among the refugees confined in the Gaza Strip, President Nasser declined.

Let us have no illusions therefore about President Nasser's policy of aggression against Israel, and of disregard for the refugees.

In my talks this week with Mr. Eshkol and his colleagues, they spoke of their desire for peace and security and to live in constructive cooperation with their neighbours.

Let we in the West make sure that we do all we can to help in these aims and do not give material and moral support to those whose policy is war and whose weapons are terrorism and the degradation of their fellow human beings.

Yours faithfully,

MARCUS SIEFF.

Michael House, Baker Street, W.1, June 16.

Problem of Radio Cairo

From Sir Ian Orr-Ewing, Conservative M.P. for Hendon, North

Sir,—It will take a long time to settle the problems between the Arabs and Jews in the Middle East. In any such settlement consideration must be given to the manner in which Radio Cairo has, during more than a decade, preached enmity and fostered racial hatred. This is a problem which the United Nations cannot ignore.

Britain and the U.S.A. are at present the victims of the allegations broadcast by Radio Cairo that we somehow gave support to the Israeli Forces. The instantaneous repercussions which these lies have had on our relations with the Arab countries are fantastic. No peace settlement will endure unless the problem of Radio Cairo is tackled.

Yours faithfully,

IAN ORR-EWING.

House of Commons, June 16.

Reporting the war

From Mr. G. A. Hollingworth

Sir,—Letters from Mr. Randolph Churchill (June 8) and from Mr. Charles Douglas-Home (June 12) refer to the B.B.C.'s 6 o'clock news transmission on June 6 on the Home Service about the war in the Middle East.

Your readers may like to know what in fact it contained. At 6 p.m. the headline said: "Israel claims her troops have taken Gaza and the Jordanian sector of Jerusalem." Later in the news we said: "After fighting in Jerusalem in which 500 people are reported to have been injured, the Israelis say they've occupied the Jordanian sector of the city. Tanks and artillery were in action and there were hand-to-hand fighting and bayonet charges." We were quoting agency reports of an Israeli claim. We also quoted our Diplomatic Correspondent as follows: "Reliable sources in Amman report that the armed forces of Jordan are on the point of collapse."

Yours faithfully,

G. A. HOLLINGWORTH, Head of Radio Newsroom,

The British Broadcasting Corporation, Broadcasting House, W.1, June 14.

both now and in the long term: in other parts of London and the Provinces there are well managed estates the rateable value of the houses in which fall much below the now to be reinstated rateable value figures. The tenants of these estates are in no way exploited by their landlords and enjoy all manner of present estate amenities, and the advantage of planned redevelopment for the very reason that they are tenants of a large estate. Such a one is the Dulwich Estate, which with its beautiful park, its famous picture gallery and other amenities, to say nothing of its schools, is something of an oasis in the otherwise arid area of South East London.

The Leasehold Bill in its present form is calculated to lead to the complete break up of such estates. It will benefit the community little that each house would fall into separate ownership, often getting into the hands of owners, possibly at the mercy of greedy mortgagees and unable to maintain or rebuild as required, still less to contribute to the upkeep of general estate amenities. The gradual depreciation of good property into slums has been seen often enough elsewhere. But there is another aspect. Some of these estates are charities, run not for the profit of landlords, but under old foundations for the support of independent schools, almshouses, picture galleries and open spaces. Such is the case of Dulwich.

If the Bill goes through the resultant financial loss will cause the greatest injury to the beneficiaries of the estate. Whatever views the Government may hold about the future of the independent schools, I am sure it would not wish to destroy them by an indirect method such as this. Is it too late to hope that the Government may still introduce machinery to enable well managed estates, supporting charitable objects, to be exempted from the Bill?

Yours truly,

SHAWCROSS, Chairman of the Governing Body of Dulwich College and the Alleyn's School.

House of Lords.

AN ITV OBITUARY

From Captain T. M. Brownrigg, R.N. (retd.)

Sir,—Your paper regularly prints obituary notices of people; may I ask you to print this obituary notice of a Company?

Associated-Rediffusion (A-R) was born in November, 1954, the child of Associated Newspapers and Rediffusion. It first spoke in September, 1955, and was on the air for some 35 hours per week as, at that time, it had no brothers or sisters to help. However this amount of broadcasting proved a heavy burden and the Company lost some £3,500,000 during the next two years: at that stage it lost its father as Associated Newspapers withdrew.

A-R continued to broadcast and, with the assistance of its newly born brother and sister companies, succeeded in both making money and pleasing the public. A-R stood for two principles: that it was "independent" and that it was "never baffled". It resisted the 14 day rule (no discussion on T.V. of a subject within 14 days before it was discussed in Parliament) and attempts by Ministers to prevent a programme on the Cyprus war being broadcast.

It stood firm against criticism that it should not have brought Dr. Banda home to broadcast, that it should not have allowed Nasser, Ben Gurion and King Hussein to express their views. It insisted that, if it was to broadcast political programmes during the election campaigns then, whilst it would comply with the law, it would not necessarily comply with the wishes of the Chief Whips.

It was in fact, as well as in name, Independent; it did not fear what "They" at the I.T.A. or Whitehall or Westminster might think provided that the programme was not "against the public interest" and complied with the stringent requirements of the Television Act. Now that A-R has been smothered, its successor will know that "They" must be humoured otherwise not only will the shareholders lose money but their staff will lose their jobs.

The staff motto was "Never Baffled". The studio crews, the technicians and the production staff always rose magnificently to any challenge. A-R staff and studios were the nub of many big I.T.V. and I.T.N. broadcasts; the Election Results, Sir Winston Churchill's funeral, &c. The Outside Broadcast crews were magnificent at the Derby and Wimbledon; the film crews covered the world. A-R started school broadcasts before the B.B.C. and its dedicated staff have produced first class educational programmes ever since. Now, for the first time, they are baffled because their Company has been ruled unworthy to continue broadcasting: the Company's shareholders are permitted to have a minority holding in a new company but the loyal staff must find jobs elsewhere.

Sir Kenneth Clark will go down in history as the man who brilliantly started Independent Television. Lord Hill will be remembered as the politician who changed Independent Television Companies into commercial contractors: the staffs of the contractors will know that unless "They" at the I.T.A. are pleased, their company is liable to be liquidated. We were proud that in Britain Independent Television was really independent of the establishment (unlike most countries). I doubt if we shall be proud for this reason in future.

Even the *T.V. Times*, of which I am a director, is being killed in July next year: at its peak it had a weekly circulation of four million and it made a profit. It is to be succeeded by a new national journal controlled by a board on which the I.T.A. will be represented, i.e., the I.T.A. will control, since the other directors from the commercial programme contractors can be displaced at the end of their licence period.

It is sad and I am baffled.

Yours sincerely,

T. M. BROWNRIGG, General Manager, Associated-Rediffusion, 1954-64.

Vann House, Finchampstead, Berkshire, June 15.

Lost savings

From Mr. James Drescher

Sir,—In the matter of T.W.W. the large shareholders have been mentioned but the more humble ones may suffer greater relative losses.

When they invested their money in T.W.W. they thought that they were investing in a respectable, established business and did not take very seriously the possibility that the TV contract might not be renewed. Why should they? There had been no precedent, the possibility was not widely advertised, and, in fact, its happen-

Magnanimity In Middle East Victory.
MARCUS SIEFF. Michael House, Baker Street, W.1, June 16, IAN ORR-EWING. House of Commons, June 16 and G. A. HOLLINGWORTH, Head of Radio Newsroom. The British Broadcasting Corporation, Broadcasting House, W.1, June 14.

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 17, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56970.

Category: Letters to the Editor

Gale Document Number:CS185167057

Jordan tourism hit

By NICOLAS TRAVERS

Jordan, deprived of the Holy Places that formed her major tourist attraction and source of foreign revenue as a result of the recent war, is facing an economic plight that an Embassy spokesman this week described as "desperate".

Tourism all over the Middle East has suffered. But Lebanon reopened Beirut airport on Wednesday and Egypt will probably follow suit before the end of the season; Syria's attractions have dwindled after a succession of military *coups*.

Tourism formed Jordan's major export industry. In 1966 the country exported goods worth £8,500,000; her imports were worth £68m. The deficit was partly covered by tourism, worth £12m. and centred on Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth, and American aid totalling more than another £12m.

Now that the river Jordan's west bank is under Israel control, and the country's economy has been hamstrung by the influx of more than 160,000 refugees as well as damage to Amman and the destruction of airport facilities, the Jordan Government is being compelled to live off reserves.

Embassy officials say they will wait for the Arab summit conference and help from "brother Arab nations", hinting that the country will also probably look to the East for finance —Jordan is still part of the sterling area.

Meanwhile British travel agencies are going ahead with plans to fly tourists into Israel to see the Holy Places. Israel's campaign has relieved them of several problems (previously tourists were allowed to cross the Jordan-Israel armistice line only once—and that travelling from Jordan) and tourists had to be flown into Amman and out of Tel Aviv.

Now agents are planning to run round trips between London and Tel Aviv to include the whole of the Holy Land. Orientours, the major British operator to the Middle East, plans to recruit a committee of religious leaders, Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic, and Greek Orthodox, and take them on a round trip to show the public that everything is safe.

The firm is waiting for a green light from the Israel Government—the former Jordan-owned area is still closed and under military administration—and has five planeloads of tourists ready to go.

Jordan tourism hit.
By NICOLAS TRAVERS

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 17, 1967; pg. 17; Issue 56970.

Category: Business and Finance

Gale Document Number:CS285830353

NASSER'S SMALL HOPE ON TODAY'S MEETING

CAIRO TALKS OF GUERRILLAS

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT—Cairo, June 18

President Nasser expects very little from tomorrow's meeting of the United Nations Assembly, remembering the organization's failure to enforce previous resolutions concerning Israel.

He believes that the Arabs, and particularly Egypt, must rebuild military strength before they can look seriously at any kind of proposition concerning Israel, and there is talk in Government circles here of organizing guerrillas against a possible Israel attack across the Suez Canal.

Punishing Britain

He did not think before June 5 that the great powers would allow real war to break out between Egypt and Israel, but he was hoping to provoke such a dangerous situation, from a position of considerable Egyptian strength, that the great powers would have to sponsor a settlement helpful to the Palestine refugees and not to Israel.

He believes that the United States deluded him by encouraging Vice-President Zakaria Mohieddin and Dr. Mahmoud Fawzi, the deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs, to visit Washington at the very time when the war broke out. Vice-President Humphrey was also expected in Cairo early this month.

Now he is expecting the United States and the Soviet Union to agree eventually that the Israelis must withdraw from Sinai and elsewhere and so let Egypt open the canal. Then a settlement might be worked out and enforced.

Followers' rivalries

For a guarantee by the great powers Israel would surrender much of what she holds at the moment, because in the long term a well developed and efficient Arab world would certainly dominate Israel, and the Israelis know this.

Meanwhile the United States and Britain are to be punished by the Arabs for their support of Israel, which seems inconsistent considering the Arab hopes now placed upon their cooperation with the Soviet Union. There will be a boycott of their goods and reprisals against their business interests, including shipping and air transport.

President Nasser's position is a little like the late Mr. Nehru's after the Chinese campaign against India. He is less than he was, but still the only possible leader. What goes on around him is very hard to say, except that there is rivalry between Zakaria Mohieddin and another Vice-President, Ali Sabry, who is more extreme than Zakaria Mohieddin.

However, in the end the real threat to President Nasser's leadership may come from a few embittered majors and colonels, prepared to risk any action against him. Weeks ahead, when the full extent of Egypt's losses becomes known to the people, these desperate men may even be able to manipulate the crowds against him.

Good professional officers in the Army must be furious about the air debacle, because it left them with no hope in desert warfare, with no cover.

Finally, considering the crucial blow by Israel's air force, comprising Mystères, Mirages and Vautours, it is surprising that there is no Arab reaction against France. This is regarded as a triumph for French policy and diplomacy.

Cairo Talks Of Guerrillas.
FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Monday, Jun 19, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56971.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17394899

'Study Bible' advice to UN

Permanent peace will soon come to the Middle East, Dr. Billy Graham said in London on Saturday. He told a press conference that the United Nations could reach a settlement more quickly if they set up a team of their finest brains to study Bible prophecies.

"The Bible indicates that there is coming a time in the Middle East when Egypt, Syria, and Israel will live in peace together." he said.

Dr. Graham, who begins his 1967 campaign in Britain on Thursday, spoke of recent moral trends in Britain and the United States. He said:—

"I was shocked to see cinemas in New York which once carried decent pictures now carry lurid and sensual films. We seem to be ahead of Britain in putting practically anything on the screen.

"We are spewing filth and dirt to the world, and there is a possibility that decadence will endanger the security of the western world."

He believed that Britain's influence in the world was still "tremendous".

'Study Bible' advice to UN.
The Times (London, England),Monday, Jun 19, 1967; pg. 3; Issue 56971.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS52260051

Arabs to continue oil embargo

Total shutdown rejected

From NICHOLAS HERBERT—Beirut, June 18

Arab Foreign Ministers meeting in Kuwait today agreed to continue their embargo on oil supplies for Britain, the United States and west Germany. This seems to have been the highest common factor of agreement possible, in spite of efforts by some delegations to secure a total shutdown of oil production.

The meeting was adjourned to New York, where the search for means of pressing Israel to withdraw to its former boundaries will continue during the session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The discussions in Kuwait lasted six hours and were attended by the Foreign Ministers of all the Arab League states, with Abdul Khalek Hassouna, the secretary-general of the League, and Ahmed Shukairy, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization who, after a quiet war, has reappeared on the scene.

New alignment

The fact that Egypt was one of the countries proposing a total stoppage of oil while Saudi Arabia was one of those opposing it might suggest that old divisions were reasserting themselves. However, the lines appeared to be drawn differently, with the major producers arguing that oil revenue could be used to strengthen Arab armies.

They were also reports that Mr. Kosygin had told Colonel Boumédienne, the Algerian Prime Minister, who recently visited Moscow, that Russia would compensate the Arabs for arms lost during the war.

The reported withdrawal of 15,000 Egyptian troops from Yemen seems unlikely to be a prelude to a total retreat, as Tunisian mediation which apparently is evisaged, would not then be necessary. Moreover it has been reported that Yemen's two most powerful tribes are again back on the Republican side.

These are early days to assess the balance of power within the Arab world, which is still enjoying the flush of unity in adversity; but the promised Aden policy statement from London reminds one of the potential importance of Perim island, which sits in the middle of Bab el Mandeb strait at the foot of the Red Sea. The future of Perim, which is British-owned, has never been settled, but on the map it looks startingly like Tiran.

'The big lie'

It is now one month since President Nasser ordered the United Nations Emergency Force out of Egypt, thus gaining control of the Tiran strait which he has now lost again to Israel. The whole Middle Eastern jigsaw has been broken up in the meantime and with it Britain's relations with the Arab world. Mr. Brown's latest statement on the unacceptability of solutions imposed by force is probably the first British statement in the month that the Arabs could welcome, although its exact meaning with reference to Israel's territorial gain is not clear.

If it means that Britain favours a return to the situation as it was before the fighting started, it could do more than all denunciations of what the B.B.C. World Service calls "the big lie" to weaken the widespread belief that Britain and the United States did somehow help Israel in the war. The suspicion will remain, however, that it means rather less than it says, and the same applies to the White House reaffirmation that the United States guarantees the territorial integrity of Middle Eastern countries.

All this is part of the price to be paid for the oddity of the Anglo-American position before the war began, at least as seen from the Arab world. Certainly comparisons with Goebbels and *Mein Kampf*, which have been coming from the B.B.C. lately, are unlikely to calm the Arabs' hectic imaginations.

Arabs to continue oil embargo.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Monday, Jun 19, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56971.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS84110547

TIMES PAST
THE TIMES
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IN THE ASSEMBLY

Whatever the Americans and Russians do China assumes that they are working together in an unholy conspiracy. News of China's H-bomb, made public just as MR. KOSYGIN landed on American soil, might encourage them to give the conspiracy some life. They have equal reason to be alarmed by the explosion. China is outside the United Nations, outside nuclear or any other treaties, and, as recent events have shown, outside any conventions of international behaviour. It will not always be so, but so long as the present Maoist phase lasts China will be a rogue elephant.

When MR. KOSYGIN'S journey was announced it was widely assumed that he was going to use the General Assembly for propaganda purposes, and try to win back there some of the influence and initiative Russia had lost in Sinai. If true, this would not make his journey less significant. The Assembly is a place where the boundary between debate and propaganda is easily blurred. Besides, the Russians are not the only ones who will be using this forum to justify the past. The hope is that they will also use it to talk constructively about the future. MR. KOSYGIN'S past record gives some grounds for hope.

Admittedly Russia's actions over the past few days have been in terms of black and white, presenting Israel wholly in the wrong and the Arabs all innocent victims. Diplomatic relations with Israel have been broken and new restrictions put in the way of Jewish emigration from Russia. It is a fact, however, that even before Russia came out as champion of the Arabs her relations with Israel were bad. Because of her large Jewish population Russia has found Israel an irritant. She has her own internal reasons for holding Israel at arm's length.

What could be more ominous is COLONEL BOUMEDIENNE'S statement that Russia has agreed to compensate the Arabs for the loss of munitions. He has just come back from Moscow, but the exact meaning of his statement is obscure. If it implies that everything Egypt and the others have lost is to be replaced, a new arms build-up would be beginning, whereas perhaps the most promising big-power line of approach to the Middle East is over a limitation of arms.

The one thing which both Russia and America ought to seek to avoid is a continuing confrontation between forces which they arm and support diplomatically but which, as events have proved, they are unable to control. Neither the Arabs nor Israel are happy about the backing they got in the recent crisis. The Israelis in particular in their present exalted mood are prepared to set the world at defiance. It is a mood which will not last for ever, but it will be given a fresh boost if the Assembly spends all its time as a court with Israel in the dock. Certainly the Israelis will have to be disabused of the idea that how they redraw the map of the Middle East is nobody else's business. It is very much everybody's business. The way in which the Assembly could revive the flagging reputation of the United Nations as a whole is by treating the Middle East as a problem and not as a lawsuit. The fear about the Middle East used to be lest it became a vacuum of power; it has now become a vacuum of ideas.

In The Assembly.
The Times (London, England),Monday, Jun 19, 1967; pg. 9; Issue 56971.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS151219411

SOONER THAN EXPECTED

China's first hydrogen bomb is described as being "a great support to the Arab people in the struggle against U.S. imperialism". China has recently promised to give Egypt a loan, and some military assistance probably in the form of small arms and vehicles. But talk of providing nuclear protection to the Middle East can be dismissed for what it is—just talk.

There are other points about the explosion. It shows that China's nuclear programme was in no way a casualty from the excesses of the cultural revolution. Perhaps it was protected from the worst turmoils of the past year by the fact that most of the important installations are located in Sinkiang province, whose leader, GENERAL WANG EN-MAO, did not allow the Red Guards to rampage through his territory. The explosion also confirms earlier suspicions that the pace of China's nuclear development has been consistently underestimated in the west. Her first nuclear test was in October, 1964, and since then her progress towards hydrogen status has been faster than any of the preceding hydrogen powers. By overtaking France, China has also underlined the technical difficulties which that country, for all its efforts, is finding so hard to overcome. An analysis of the last two tests showed that China was on the verge of mastery at the next stage.

Certainly, arguments in America about counter-measures to China's nuclear power, such as antimissile systems, have all been conducted on the assumption that China would achieve a hydrogen capability. It was expected, and the fact that it may have come sooner than expected does not fundamentally alter the strategic equation.

In terms of actual military capability —delivery systems, weapons stock piles, and so on—the reality of China's power falls short of her claim. But psychologically power is always in advance of the actual military potential, and in the political terms of South-East Asia the psychology of China's bomb is as important as its practical impact.

The existing nuclear powers have only themselves to blame for this failure to make a distinction between the shadow and the substance of nuclear military power. They defined nuclear status as the stage reached when a nation has tested a device. They invested each successive test with an importance out of proportion to the technological advance it denoted. In doing so they disregarded those nations with well developed nuclear technologies, quite as advanced as China's, who have decided not to apply their achievement to the testing of explosives. They have thus been excluded from the so-called "nuclear club", and by virtue of that exclusion they are discriminated against in the proposed treaty to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. It is this discrimination, quite as much as the test programmes of France and China, which could make the conclusion of such a treaty in some respects misleading.

Sooner Than Expected.
The Times (London, England),Monday, Jun 19, 1967; pg. 9; Issue 56971.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS151350483

FOR SOMERSET AS WELL AS WALES

From Mr. A. I. Shenkman

Sir,—It is with an ever increasing sense of dismay that I look at the composition of the Harlech Consortium and its enormous preponderance of Welsh cultural influence.

The area covered by this television concession includes the whole of Somerset as well as Wales. The culture of Somerset and the South West is completely different from that of Wales and the two areas have practically nothing in common.

On the whole T.W.W. managed to compromise between the interests of the two areas it covered very well, and if its approach was slightly pedestrian, this was probably due partly to the fact that it had constantly to bear in mind the totally different cultures of its two audiences.

When one looks at the composition of the Harlech Consortium and also reads in the press of the pressure from Welsh M.P.s which preceded its being awarded the television rights for the area, one is filled with the grimmest foreboding regarding the preservation of the interests of the Somerset minority. One can foresee a situation in which one has only the alternatives of the B.B.C. on the one hand and the endless ramming of Welsh culture, Welsh interests and Welsh accents down the throats of a reluctant Somerset audience on the other.

If Lord Hill absolutely insists on this course of almost incomprehensible indifference to the interests of his West Country consumers, then can we at least have an extension of the transmission range of the Westward transmitter so that it is possible to receive the Westward transmissions in all parts of Somerset ? At least this would have something in common with the people in the area it serves.

I am, yours faithfully,
A. I. SHENKMAN.
Herds Hill, Langport, Somerset, June 16.

Time for review

From Mr. D. M. Keegan

Sir,—The whole question of the creation of new commercial television companies makes one wonder how long it can be before the Postmaster General reviews the whole basis of television broadcasting.

The more the B.B.C. is successful in winning viewers, the more anxious it is to expand its services, the more money it costs. This implies continued applications to the Government for increased licence fees. One by-product of this method of financing has been the involvement of television dealers in helping to catch licence evaders. Yet with commercial television, the more successful it is the more money it earns.

Surely, the time cannot be long delayed when the B.B.C. requests the Government for permission to accept advertising revenue. This might enable the B.B.C. to earn some money and buy back some of the executives they have lost to the new commercial companies.

Yours faithfully,
D. M. KEEGAN, Director, Radio and Television Retailers' Association.
19-21 Conway Street, Fitzroy Square, W.1, June 16.

Newspaper interests

From Mr. M. Chapman-Walker

Sir,—Reference Mr. Hardcastle's letter to you on June 14. Lord Hill has now gone to considerable lengths to increase the financial interest of newspapers in commercial television. The *News of the World* will, however, continue to stand firmly on its own feet, as it has done for the past 100 years.

We invested in T.W.W. 10 years ago at a time when very, very little local money could be found to support a media in which we believed, but many did not.

Perhaps we took St. Paul's advice to the Hebrews too literally ! " Faith is the substance of things hoped for."

Yours faithfully,
M. CHAPMAN-WALKER, Director, *News of the World*.
30 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, E.C.4, June 16.

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

From Dr. Kathleen M. Kenyon

Sir,—From the beginning of the conflagration in the Near East, the United Kingdom has declared that it is neutral. But it was also made very clear that this neutrality would not allow Israel to be annihilated. This was in accord with the feeling of the western world. Israel as a state existed, even though it had been formed at the expense of the Arab occupants of Palestine. Its achievements had been remarkable and the bravery and determination of its inhabitants deserved our fullest admiration.

At a time when it seemed very probable that Israel would be overwhelmed by the united strength of her Arab neighbours, it was made very clear that the west would not allow this to happen. Then the incredible happened, and it was not Israel but Jordan that was overwhelmed, the smallest and most vulnerable of the Arab powers and for long a very loyal ally of Britain.

Surely just as a week or so ago we were saying that the Arabs must not be allowed to get away with the fruits of successful war, so we must now say that the Israelis must not be able to keep the fruits of their invasion. Israel should be made to return to her pre-existing frontiers. Only by insisting on this, and doing our best to enforce it, can our neutrality be said to mean anything.

Admittedly some adjustments of the frontier would be reasonable. The Gaza strip is irrelevant to Egypt, and has a future only as part of Israel. Some guarantee must be given about Sharm esh Sheikh, though it must be remarked that this controls access to Jordan's only port, as well as to a subsidiary Israeli port. The Israelis understandably feel that the Old City of Jerusalem must not be lost to them. But it must be remembered that it is equally important to the Arabs, and is inhabited by them. It must also be pointed out that there was a Jewish Temple in Jerusalem from the time of Solomon, *c.* 960 B.C. to A.D. 70, when it was destroyed by Titus, a period of 1,030 years. Only 40 years has to be added to that to the time David first captured Jerusalem.

After a period of Roman and Christian control, Jerusalem was conquered by the Arabs in A.D. 636. Since then it has been the third most holy city of the Islamic world, a period to the present date of 1331 years, interrupted by a bare century of Christian control in the Crusader period. The Jews have no prescriptive right to Jerusalem.

It must be accepted that the Israelis cannot in future be denied access to the Old City. Their interests and those of the Muslims and the Christians must be safeguarded, and this is surely a function of the United Nations. Jerusalem should become an open city, with an area perhaps stretching from the Mount of Olives to the east and from Government House to the south, but to the north only from the walls of the Old City itself, for outside it is the Arab new city which is just as much an Arab achievement as is the other new city a Jewish achievement.

Sympathy in the west with the Israelis is natural, for we have many of their co-religionists among us, and because we have a guilt-complex over the terrible fate of the Jews in Europe. But what most people do not remember today is that there was not a convenient empty space in the eastern Mediterranean to which the Jews could return after a diaspora of nearly 1,900 years. The creation of the state of Israel meant the expulsion or flight of about a million Arabs. This is the injustice the Arabs cannot stomach.

From 1952 to 1958 I carried out, as Director of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, annual campaigns of excavations at Jericho. Our nearest neighbours were the 30,000 refugees in the Ain es Sultan camp. They were kept alive and healthy by U.N.W.R.A., supported by Britain and America. The women were kept busy with household chores, but the men had no worth-while occupation. Their thoughts were with, and their conversation about, their own houses, fields, shops and olive groves which they had inherited from their fathers.

This bitter sense of injustice remains. It will only be multiplied many times if a yet further area is seized by Israel. This is not the way to peace. It is a contribution to the build-up of greater antagonism.

Every effort must be made by the great powers to prevent it, if necessary by sanctions. If we were prepared to intervene if the war went one way, we should be prepared to intervene now that it has gone the other.

Yours faithfully,
KATHLEEN M. KENYON.
St. Hugh's College, Oxford, June 16.

To be wiped off the map

From Mr. T. M. Lindsay

Sir,—Princess Dina of Jordan writes, in her letter today, that the Arabs had no wish to destroy Israel and that such an aim " is completely alien to our thinking and character ".

If so, why was there never any Arab reaction (apart from loud cheers) each time Nasser's propaganda machine boasted that Israel was to be wiped clean off the map ?

Yours faithfully,
T. M. LINDSAY.
Wey Meadow, Bell Road, Haslemere, Surrey, June 16.

A melancholy prediction

From Mr. Desmond Stewart

Sir,—A generation ago one branch of the Semitic people found itself herded into the gas-chambers of eastern Europe. That trauma helped to create the " new, fighting Israeli " of which we have recently seen so much; the traditional Jew of humility, piety and learning is at a discount in Israel.

As one who has lived for almost 20 years among the Arabs, the other main branch of the Semitic people, I can make a melancholy prediction: Israel's Pearl Harbour style onslaught of June 5, uncondemned by the West, will engender a similar transformation in the Arab character. As with the Jews—who were a warrior people under Joshua and Gideon—this will also be an atavistic regression. The Arabs will steel themselves against their hyperbole in words, their moderation in action; they will strive to combine the skills of the technician with the determination of an Omar and the ruthlessness of a Khalid Ibn Walid.

This transformation will take less time than many people think; it will destroy much that is lovable in the present Arabs; it will result not only from Israel's too ruthless success but from resentment at what Arabs sense as the fashionable variant of anti-Semitism: disdain for Arabs and disregard for their rights. The assumption that Arabs are different from other human beings and will accept a peace imposed by force will soon be proved false.

Yours, &c.,
DESMOND STEWART.
Ilex House, Wells next the Sea, Norfolk.

SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES

From Mr. John Betts

Sir,—The Vice-Chancellors (June 3) " can envisage, for example, the necessity of providing four-year courses for all university entrants " to offset diluted sixth-form standards under the comprehensive system. Mr. Rhodes has replied (*The Times*, June 5) that " unless the Vice-Chancellors produce convincing statistical proof of their contention, their view would be interpreted as sheer prejudice ".

Labour M.P.s seem to regard the Vice-Chancellors' letter as a frontal attack on the Government and its comprehensive principle in wanton disregard of the letter's words: " Our fears, not about the comprehensive principle as such ".

As a university lecturer recently returned from New Zealand after a number of years, I have been surprised and alarmed to find that the introduction of comprehensive school systems is not coupled here with parallel major reorganization at university level. Students in New Zealand (and other Commonwealth countries with comprehensive education and teaching standards comparable with the United Kingdom) take at least three years to gain a broad general B.A. involving as many as five different subjects to different levels of attainment. A fourth, and in some subjects a fifth year is required for an M.A. with Honours in a single subject. This degree comes close in standard to the United Kingdom's three year B.A. with Honours but in awarding scholarships for further study in the United Kingdom some preference is given to candidates wishing to read for a further undergraduate degree (e.g., Part II at Cambridge).

This seems to be at least the beginnings of a clear factual example of how comprehensive education may necessitate change in a university system. In all naïve ignorance, I would be interested to know (1) if, in introducing the comprehensive principle, the government examined the possible effect on the universities of the change, (2) if the ready-made examples in the Commonwealth were ever adequately studied and (3) if so, with what result or if not, why not.

Yours, &c.,
JOHN H. BETTS.
Department of Classics, University of Bristol.

NO SMOKING IN THE PHONE KIOSK

From Mr. James Poston

Sir,—Why not install smoke sensitive sprinkler valves in telephone booths ?

Yours faithfully,
J. POSTON.
Portland Rectory, Dorset.

Middle East Crisis.
KATHLEEN M. KENYON. St Hugh's College, Oxford, June 16, T. M. LINDSAY. Wey Meadow, Bell Road, Haslemere, Surrey, June 16 and DESMOND STEWART. Hex House, Wells next the Sea, Norfolk.

The Times (London, England),Monday, Jun 19, 1967; pg. 9; Issue 56971.

Category: Letters to the Editor

Gale Document Number:CS151743699

Mr Kosygin dashes hopes of a summit conference

Mr. Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, was reported in Washington yesterday to have rejected President Johnson's offer of talks. Administration officials said that Mr. Kosygin had explained in his response through diplomatic channels that he had come to the United States for the purpose of attending the United Nations special General Assembly meeting on the Middle East and not for the purpose of making an American visit.

Mr. Johnson, in a statement in Washington to the American nation, called on the Arabs and Israelis to "reason together" in an effort to reach a lasting peace. He made it clear that Israel must be guaranteed freedom of navigation in international waterways and that a check must be kept on arms deliveries to the Middle East.

UNITED NATIONS.—Mr. Kosygin, addressing the General Assembly in New York, said that so long as Israel forces continued to occupy the territories they had conquered, the danger of a military conflagration would continue. He called on all people of the world, of whatever ideology, "to work for the common objective, which is to prevent war". The Soviet leader insisted that most of the Arab territories held by Israel were taken after the cease-fire.

Mr. Kosygin walked out when Mr. Abba Eban, the Israel Foreign Minister, addressed the assembly. Mr. Eban called for direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab states. The suggestion of a return to the situation existing before the war was totally unacceptable, he said. He drew attention, however, to the advantages to the whole region of opening the "blocked arteries" of communications in the Middle East. Mr. Eban also launched a strong attack on Russia's role in Arab-Israel affairs.

LONDON.—Before flying to New York, Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, told the House of Commons that for the first six months of South Arabia's independence, Britain would keep a strong naval force and V bombers in the area, committed to resisting any aggression against the new state. His suggested date for independence was January 9, 1968.

PARIS.—The Middle East was one of the principal topics of talks between President de Gaulle and Mr. Wilson.

TEL AVIV.—A supplementary budget of £41m. to pay for the war was presented to the Israel Parliament, and it was announced that taxes would be raised by 10 per cent from July 1.

Mr. Ben-Gurion, the former Prime Minister of Israel, suggested that an autonomous Arab state should be formed on territory on the west bank of the Jordan now occupied by Israel. He said the proposed new state would be linked in an economic treaty with Israel and would be protected by Israel troops. The Arabs in the area could elect representatives to negotiate the creation of the state.

CAIRO.—In a reshuffle of his Cabinet, President Nasser has assumed the office of Prime Minister as well as secretary general of the Arab Socialist Union, Egypt's only political organization.

The Philippine Ambassador in Cairo was reported in Manila to have sent a message saying that the Suez Canal was likely to remain closed for six months or more.

AMMAN. — King Husain told a press conference that he did not specifically accuse Britain and the United States of assisting Israel in her air attacks. Nevertheless, he was sure that aircraft other than Israel's had been involved in the fighting.

BAGHDAD.—The Iraq General Labour Confederation called on President Arif to press for complete nationalization of the British and American share of the Iraq Petroleum Company.

WARSAW.—Mr. Gomulka, the Polish leader, attacked some Polish Jews who, he said, applauded Israel's Middle East war against the Arabs and even organized drinking parties to celebrate it. "We do not wish a fifth column to be created in our country", he said.

Mr Kosygin dashes hopes of a summit conference.
The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 20, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56972.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68250836

SUEZ PASSENGERS SEE STRAGGLERS DYING

BRITISH RESCUE EGYPTIAN TROOPS

BY A STAFF REPORTER

The crews of British and German ships helped stragglers from the Egyptian Army to escape from the Sinai desert, Mrs. Adelaide Lubbock, a passenger in one of the four British vessels marooned in the Suez Canal, said yesterday.

Mrs. Lubbock, the mother of Mr. Eric Lubbock, the Liberal M.P., was speaking at London Airport after arriving from Athens with a party of passengers who left the ships on Sunday and travelled overland to Cairo. The ships were held up in the Great Bitter Lake after the closing of the canal by the Egyptian authorities soon after fighting broke out.

Mrs. Lubbock, who was returning to England from Australia on board the 10,463-ton Port Invercargill, said that 200 or 300 Egyptian stragglers appeared on the Sinai bank of the Great Bitter Lake. One soldier, although exhausted, bravely swam two or three miles to one of the ships. "We all sent out lifeboats and bumboats", she said. The bumboats, which joined them at Suez, were towed out to the Egyptians and those who needed help were taken across to the opposite shore.

The canal authorities seemed "entirely indifferent" to the stragglers' plight, although they did send out tugs. Mrs. Lubbock said that being neutral, it was not clear if the British crews had the right to help the soldiers, but there were men in distress wading into the water and others "dying on the banks".



Mr. Eric Lubbock, M.P., greets his mother on her arrival at Gatwick airport with other British evacuees from Egypt.

Earlier, the passengers had a ringside view of strikes on an Egyptian airfield by Israel aircraft, which "practically came through our rigging". They also saw a fight involving one of the few Egyptian aircraft which had apparently been able to get off the ground.

Remnants of Aden's Jewish community, who were attacked by Arab mobs and had their homes and businesses set on fire, arrived in east London last night after a hurriedly arranged airlift.

British troops working under cover of darkness on Sunday night got 133 men, women, and children to an airfield, and they were flown to Israel. Some decided to make their home there, but 80 flew on to England to start new lives.

The chairman of Aden's Jewish community, Mushumo Jacob Samuel said: "It was frightening to see the mobs starting fires and chanting that they would kill all Jews. Three men trapped in the Crater district were attacked by an armed mob.

48-hour warning

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GAZA, June 19.—The Israel military governor of this occupied town threatened today to disband the local government and curtail water, electricity and other services unless the Arab population begin to turn in their firearms.

Colonel Isaac Moday gave the Arab leaders 48 hours to persuade their citizens to obey.

British Rescue Egyptian Troops.
BY A STAFF REPORTER

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 20, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56972.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68775124

Jordan seeks truth of air attacks

FROM NORMAN FOWLER
AMMAN, JUNE 19

Jordan is to make available to the United Nations government records which could be used in any inquiry into accusations of Anglo-American intervention in the Middle East war. This was announced here today by King Husain at a press conference at the royal palace, which itself was struck by two rockets during an Israeli air attack.

The King made it clear that as far as he was concerned the question was still open. He said: "We would like to know exactly what happened, exactly what we were up against.

"One of the most important factors which decided the fate of this country was the ability of the enemy in the air. The numbers of aircraft that were put up far surpassed anything that we had originally anticipated or known anything about."

Observations by radar in the first few hours of the war gave the impression that what Jordan faced was something on a much larger scale than just Israel. These aircraft were concentrated on the Mediterranean coast near both Israel and Egypt. They were at low level. The King said: "We have no conclusive proof that these aircraft got airborne from carriers." He would like to know exactly what happened and he had instructed Jordan's representatives at the United Nations to make government records available in any international inquiry.

Near to tears

King Husain was dressed in a green open-necked army uniform and his voice trembled as he talked about the war. At times he seemed near to tears and at one stage appeared to suggest that he would have preferred death. "Maybe that would have made one's responsibilities a little less", he said.

Throughout the press conference the King drew comfort from the bravery of his troops and he hoped that out of defeat a new Arab spirit would emerge. King Husain said



King Husain smokes a cigarette during his press conference in Amman yesterday.

that they had suffered a tragic blow both as Jordan and as an Arab nation, but this very defeat could make a turning point for the better. From it could develop a new Arab policy and, position—"An Arab nation in a new light and on new lines, determined to move ahead again."

Although there were no figures yet on casualties, losses had been "tremendous both in men and material". One armoured brigade had been almost totally destroyed—only seven tanks out of 88 surviving—and with one exception all the damage had been done from the air.

On the cold, political realities of his country's position King Husain preferred to reserve his hand for the Arab summit conference. The negotiating battle on Jordan was an Arab battle, the King said.

£500,000 offer

The British Government are willing to provide a grant of £500,000 for urgent rehabilitation and reconstruction projects in Jordan, to be agreed between the two Governments, the Foreign Office announces.

Yesterday tents, blankets and medical supplies were on their way by air from Cyprus.

Message denial by Montgomery

Field Marshal Lord Montgomery last night denied reports from Tel Aviv that he had sent a cablegram to Major-General Dayan, the Israel Defence Minister, congratulating him on Israel's victory against the Arabs.

"It's utterly and totally untrue", he said. "I would never dream of sending a telegram to either side. The whole thing must be a hoax."

Jordan seeks truth of air attacks.
FROM NORMAN FOWLER

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 20, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56972.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68906196

Two aspects of the Middle East crisis: Hammarskjold and the U.N.E.F.; and the new Egyptian Government.

Hammarskjöld view of agreement with Egyptians

NEW YORK, JUNE 19

U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, decided last month to withdraw the emergency force (Unef) from Egyptian soil when Cairo asked him to. His predecessor, the late Dag Hammarskjöld, believed, however, that in such a circumstance the General Assembly must first have the opportunity to decide whether Unef's task had been completed.

If Egypt refused this opportunity, Hammarskjöld said in a number of exchanges in 1956-57 and in an *aide memoire*, it would be within its rights but "would go against its acceptance of the basic resolution of the General Assembly".

Hammarskjöld felt so strongly on the point, he records, that in his seven-hour meeting with President Nasser on November 17, 1956, he felt obliged to threaten three times that, unless an agreement of the kind was made, he would have to propose an immediate withdrawal of the United Nations troops.

The text of the memorandum is published in the current number of *International Legal Materials*. It was made available by Mr. Ernest Gross, a New York lawyer and a former member of the United States mission to the United Nations. Mr. Gross told me today that he knew Hammarskjöld prepared the original for guidance. He gave Mr. Gross a copy two days later. Mr. Gross said:—

'Good faith'

"At the end of a conference he put it in my hand. He said that it might prove to be of interest in the future. There is, of course, no question about its authenticity, and I have since confirmed that it did actually reflect his views.

"It was prepared some months after the deployment of troops in the area, but it must have been known to governments at the time.

"When I heard of the events taking place last month, I made certain that the document's existence was known to the secretariat. I am certain they knew about it almost immediately after I learned about the demand for withdrawal. Perhaps it was too late."

"I don't think there was time taken to look around. If a search had been made it might have made a difference."

Hammarskjöld's document gives a detailed account of how he went about reaching agreement with the Egyptians.

He would have liked Egyptian agreement that withdrawal should take place only by decision of the assembly or by agreement between Egypt and the Assembly. This "naked form" would not succeed, so he fell back on a dual statement, that Egypt would declare that it would exert its sovereign rights on the basis of a good faith interpretation of the tasks of the force, and the United Nations should make a reciprocal commitment to maintain the force so long as the task was not completed. The document continues:—

"It would be obvious that the procedure in the case of a request from Egypt for the withdrawal of Unef would be as follows. The matter would at once be brought before the General Assembly.

"If the General Assembly found that the task was completed, everything would be all right. If they found that the task was not completed, and Egypt, all the same, maintained its stand and enforced the withdrawal, Egypt would break the agreement with the United Nations.

"Of course Egypt's freedom of action could under no circumstances be limited except by some kind of agreement. The device I used meant only that, instead of limiting their rights by a basic understanding requesting an agreement directly concerning withdrawal, we created an obligation to reach agreement on the fact that the tasks were completed and, thus, the conditons for a withdrawal established."

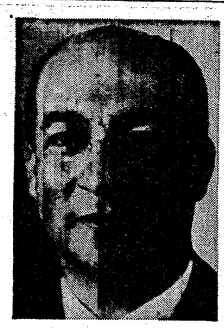
U Thant stated today that the memorandum "is not an official document, is not in our official files, and its existence has never been reported to any organ of the United Nations, including the advisory committee on Unef. It was of a purely private nature and was given to one or more of Hammarskjöld's friends.

"The paper was never conveyed to President Nasser or to the Government of the United Arab Republic. That Government never knew of it and was not bound by it.

INNIS MACBEATH



Gamal Abdul Nasser: President, Prime Minister and party leader.



Zakaria Mohieddin: Deputy Prime Minister.



Aly Sabry: Deputy Prime Minister.



Muhammad Sedky Soliman: Deputy Prime Minister.

Nasser appoints his new Cabinet

President Nasser is taking over as Prime Minister and head of Egypt's only political party in addition to his duties as head of state, it was announced in Cairo yesterday. The authoritative newspaper, *Al Ahram*, which said a new Cabinet would be sworn in today, attributed the move to the requirements of the present stage of the national struggle.

It follows from the announcements that Mr. Muhammad Sedky Soliman will resign the Prime Ministership he took over last September and that Vice-President Aly Sabry will relinquish control of the Arab Socialist Union.

What other consequences there will be cannot be forecast, but President Nasser is clearly determined to exercise the full powers given him by the National Assembly after his dramatic resignation and recall just over a week ago.

As expected, Shamseddin Badran, the Minister of War, was replaced, his successor being Abdul Wahab al Bishry. Zakaria Mohieddin, whom President Nasser named as his successor last week, was appointed first deputy Prime Minister, and Muhammad Sedky Soliman, as Minister of Industry and Power, will also be a deputy Prime Minister. Mahmoud Riad will remain as Foreign Minister.

President Nasser has decided to take no chances. In taking over the Prime Ministership and, perhaps more significantly, the office of secretary-general of Egypt's unique political organization, the Arab Socialist Union, he shows that he intends to ride the crest of any wave of popular feeling inside Egypt.

He will be in a position to canalize and perhaps control the emotions of young militants of the A.S.U. At the same time he will be in a stronger position to resist any attempt by a group of embittered colonels to seize power.

He has attempted to consolidate his position with the joint support of Zakaria Mohieddin and Aly Sabry as deputy Prime Ministers. Mohieddin is not so far to the left as Sabry and was a former ruthlessly efficient Interior Minister. His help may well be necessary during the difficult weeks to come. Sabry is the former head of the Arab Socialist Union. Both men have previously been Prime Minister.

Apart from this, the changes are not of great significance except perhaps the return to the Government as Minister of Planning, after a year's absence, of Abdul Moneim al Kaissouny, the veteran Finance Minister who carried out the arduous role of managing the Egyptian economy for 12 years. His expertise will be more than ever necessary now.

Egypt's most successful technical minister, Muhammad Younes, former head of the Suez Canal Authority, has also been retained as Minister of Oil and Transport.

His first object must be to avert total economic disaster by seeing that the cotton crop is sold, that the High Dam is completed on schedule this year, and that oil production, on which so many hopes were being pinned before the recent crisis, is resumed.

For this the technicians in the Government must be allowed full powers without excessive interference from the Arab Socialist Union—which is likely to press for a total boycott of all American and British interests including the expropriation of American companies on whom most of Egypt's potential oil boom depends.

Where the technicians seem unlikely to get their way is on the reopening of the Suez Canal. Although the country is losing nearly £2m. a week through the closure of the Canal it seems unlikely that any Egyptian Government could agree to reopen it while Israel troops are still sitting on its banks.

So far as the general political situation is concerned, the Arab world is back again in the familiar but uncomfortable position of feeling that its fate is in the hands of others. President Nasser has suffered less from this than many of his colleagues because of the skill with which he has played upon the sensitivities of the big powers, but although he is said to be ready to jump into an aircraft at any moment, he is not apparently planning to go to New York.

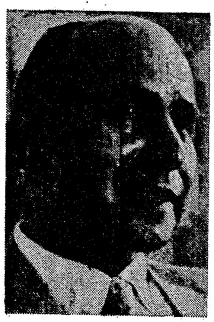
PETER MANSFIELD AND NICHOLAS HERBERT



Mahmoud Riad: Foreign Affairs.



Abdul Moneim al Kaissouny: Planning.



Muhammad Younes: Oil, transport, minerals, housing.



Kamaleddin Rifaat: Labour.

Hammarskjöld view of agreement with Egyptians.
INNIS MACBEATH and PETER MANSFIELD AND NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 20, 1967; pg. 8; Issue 56972.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS134442196

New Cabinet meets in Egypt

From STEWART HARRIS

CAIRO, JUNE 20

President Nasser's new Cabinet met for the first time today and it was also officially announced that Mr. Podgorny, the Soviet President, would arrive in Cairo tomorrow afternoon.

The visit surprised observers here, and may be one of several first fruits of President Nasser's deliberate coolness towards Russia after its doubtful behaviour two weeks ago from the Arab point of view. Mr. Kosygin's speech in the United Nations has made relations a little warmer.

In its present realistic mood the United Arab Republic may, however, want more than fair words from its friends. Yesterday, for example, 22,000 tons of wheat arrived at Suez from China, a first consignment to be followed by 13,000 tons later this week.

The character of the new Cairo Government indicates President Nasser's determination to muster all talents for the immediate future, which is likely to be tough. The Budget has just been reviewed and today the new Cabinet set up four committees, which look business-like, each under a deputy Prime Minister.

Talks offer by Mr Eshkol

SHARM EL SHEIKH, June 20.—Mr. Eshkol, the Israel Prime Minister, said today at Sharm el Sheikh that he was ready to meet President Nasser, King Husain or any other Arab leader " for peace talks at any time, at any place, on land or at sea ".

Speaking at the entrance to the Strait of Tiran, which he described as " the place where all the trouble began ", he said his offer was not made from a position of strength and arrogance.

Asked by reporters to comment on Mr. Kosygin's speech at the United Nations, Mr. Eshkol said it was defamatory and full of invective. " At this stage ", he said, " I have only one thing to say. The Soviet Union by its behaviour in the past 50 years has no right to preach to Israel about morality."—*Associated Press.*

Aid mission by Mr Podgorny

From Kyril Tidmarsh

MOSCOW, JUNE 20

President Podgorny, who has undertaken some tricky missions in the past, left Moscow for Cairo today and stopped in Yugoslavia on the way.

A brief announcement tonight said that Mr. Brezhnev, the General Secretary of the Communist Party, today delivered a report to the central committee on the situation in the Middle East " in connexion with Israel aggression ".

No announcement has been made about the purpose of Mr. Podgorny's mission and the first assumption here is that it is to discuss the future of Soviet aid and support to Egypt.

New Cabinet meets in Egypt.
From STEWART HARRIS

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 21, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56973.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68644053

WEAKNESS OF BRITISH PLAN SHOWN UP

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The mutiny of troops in the South Arabian Federation illustrates in one way the flaw in the protection that Britain has proposed for South Arabia after independence next January. The aircraft carrier, the V-bombers, and the Hunter aircraft promised by Mr. George Brown will, in some political circumstances, and also when used over some of the wild terrain inland, be almost valueless by themselves.

To be ultimately effective they would have to be supported by loyal and efficient troops on the ground. Yesterday's grim incidents make it doubtful that there would always be loyal troops in support.

The troops in an independent state are to be provided by the Federal Army and not, apparently, by Britain. Sometimes in the past incidents inland have aroused suspicions that some soldiers of the Army might not be on the side of the Federal Government or of the protecting power, and yesterday's Aden story supports these suspicions.

High emotions

At the present time, politically, Arab emotional hatred of Britain and the United States and of anyone—such as the federal Ministers in South Arabia—thought to be associated with them is running strongly. This can affect soldiers in South Arabia as much as peasants in, say, Egypt.

Even if the removal of senior Arab officers, which is said to have been the immediate cause of yesterday's trouble, had not been ordered for political reasons, the violence demonstrates how brittle control of the Federal Army can be.

This army was raised in November, 1961, from the Aden Protectorate Levies. At first it was staffed and commanded by British officers, but in the past few years there has been a steady replacement of British officers by Arabs.

The political aspect is one side of the weakness of the system that Britain is proposing for the future. The other derives from the physical and geographical nature of some of the interior in the federation.

The stupendous overhanging cliffs and crags and the mountains and caves that mark parts of the inland states are not the type of country over which the Israel air force was so devastatingly effective this month. Rebellious tribes, or bands of men sent southwards over the so-called border with Yemen, could in some areas remain well hidden and protected from air attack if driven off the desert.

Britain has used air strikes periodically in the Radfan area, for example, and these have helped to take the momentum out of tribal challenges. But by themselves they have done no more than that.

The tribesmen have often disappeared into inaccessible country. The same may apply again when there is a challenge to a new independent government.

Weakness Of British Plan Shown Up.
FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 21, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56973.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68906197

MIDDLE EAST

From Mr. Brian Parkyn, Labour M.P. for Bedford

Sir,—Recent events in the Middle East have done much to erode popular support for U.N. Most people in this country see, or used to see, in it the embryo of world government. Unless something is done to nourish this popular view U.N. will become another lost cause and one which could produce a feeling of despair amongst ordinary people. For this reason John Tilney's proposal (June 13) for U.N. to acquire the Sinai Peninsula merits much support.

But I believe U.N. administration of Sinai should be linked with the existing U.N. presence in Cyprus. While the work of settling refugees in Sinai will take many years, Cyprus could provide the administrative base for complicated political and economic operations which will be necessary in Sinai. Furthermore, a link with Cyprus would diversify the population of this first U.N. district, which will otherwise be almost exclusively Arab.

The idea of acquiring territories by purchase has of course excellent precedents in Alaska, Panama, Louisiana. It is a more civilized method of acquisition than conquest. In this case Sinai cannot be considered as an integral part of Egypt because it was not definitely incorporated into Egypt until 1906, and since then has been in the hands of the Turks and British and, in any case, up until the end of the last war had a very small nomadic population.

Yours faithfully,

BRIAN PARKYN.

House of Commons, June 16.

Living together

From Mr. M. H. Moss

Sir,—One of the most disturbing aspects of the Middle East situation is the refusal of Arab politicians to acknowledge some of the more obvious facts of the present position.

Princess Dina of Jordan (June 16) wishes to forget that only two weeks ago the Arab countries were openly proclaiming their intention to wage war against Israel. Their failure on the battlefield is not proof that they are innocent victims of aggression. The Princess wishes to see the Arabs as one nation but forgets that until very recently her Arab neighbours were not very well disposed to the Jordan monarchy and, had Israel had expansionist aims, could very easily have put them into effect.

The Arab peoples are now kept in wilful ignorance of events of the recent past and consequently Britain and America are blamed for disasters which they neither wished for nor contributed to. Though I would agree that it is mistaken to describe Arab countries as pro-British or pro-Russian, it can hardly be denied that they are now intensely anti-British and anti-American without good reason.

Arabs now profess peaceful intentions having blockaded, boycotted, threatened, reviled and attacked Israel for 19 years. If they sincerely wish for peace can they not find a statesman who will at least proclaim his willingness to discuss with Israeli leaders a peaceful solution to the refugee and other problems. Is there in fact a single Arab politician who will proclaim his willingness to work toward a situation of peaceful co-existence with Israel ?

Israeli leaders have stated their readiness to discuss these matters and have always proclaimed their willingness to have peace negotiations, always to be met by claims of belligerency status, by acts of war or acts designed to provoke war. Can her Royal Highness now persuade her compatriots to negotiate with Israel instead of threatening an increase in Arab militancy, since this has brought them so little reward in the past and has brought the world to the brink of war.

I am an Englishman and a Jew and feel strongly that Arabs and Jews must find a way of living amicably together in the Middle East.

Yours faithfully,

M. H. MOSS.

9 The Bridge, Wealdstone, Middlesex.

Middle East.
BRIAN PARKYN. House of Commons, June 16 and M. H. MOSS. 9 The Bridge, Wealdstone, Middlesex

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 21, 1967; pg. 9; Issue 56973.

Category: Letters to the Editor

Gale Document Number:CS152005845

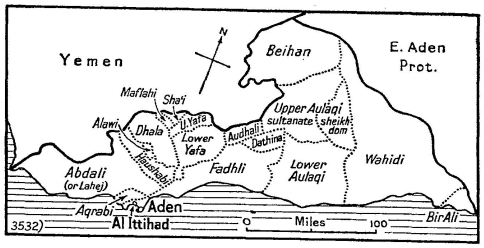
Aden struggle over who will succeed the British

By Tom Little

The mutiny in the Federal Army of South Arabia inevitably casts some doubt on the policy of the British Government, which depends to no small extent on the arming and training of this force in advance of independence on January 9 next year. The circumstances are not yet clear, though a British spokesman has attributed the revolt to a dispute within the army without political significance.

This is not in keeping with the statement that the trouble was sparked by an attempt to arrest Arab soldiers believed to be responsible for terrorism, and in fact it had been suspected for some time that Federal Army men were committing some of the outrages. How significant the revolt may be depends on the nature of its roots in the officer corps. If these are deep the force will be a danger instead of a strength.

Nevertheless, the choice before the British Government has not been materially altered, although the form of its execution may well be. The Government had either to grant independence



"by 1968" or to base their policy on the Federal Government, the only indigenous structure that was to hand, and give that government the chance to survive. They were compelled to choose the latter. Any postponement of a decision would have aggravated the problem in circumstances which got worse with the passage of time.

Time was rapidly running out in Aden —this has been the crux of the matter. The police force was demoralized by terrorism, so that the security of citizens against common crime was largely gone. The investigation of bank robberies, by which terrorists financed their operations, had become impossible. The people walked blind through the streets, seeing nothing, hearing nothing and, above all, saying nothing. Most magistrates and Adeni judges would not sit in court.

PRIVATE MURDERS

British troops could drive away armed bands, comb the back streets for *caches* of explosives and patrol the dangerous areas, but they could not replace the civil police. The frontiers of common crime and political terrorism were so blurred that no one now will ever know how many private murders have swollen the statistics of "popular resistance".

This collapse of security was disastrous to a trading town like Aden, and as the months passed without improvement the Indian traders were closing their shops and departing or were paying protection money to terrorists. Larger firms prepared their plans for the steady run-down of their operations to zero in case the rot was never stopped.

I write this in the past tense of my recent visit, but it is unlikely that the simple announcement of the British Government's policy will have changed much yet. For most Adenis it is simply important that there is a defined policy, almost any policy that offers them the prospect of some normality and in the ensuing months its success will largely hinge on Sir Humphrey Trevelyan's ability to restore law and order. The unpleasant but necessary decision to suspend trial by jury reflects his awareness of the fact.

The Adenis did not want the federal government in the form they are likely to get it. From the outset they regarded their union with the former protectorate areas with the gravest suspicion and when their Ministers agreed to join the Federation the Aden Broadcasting Station was kept busy day after day for weeks allaying public doubts. Some of them hoped during the current troubles that they would be allowed to secede and go their own way, and looked nostalgically back to what now seems the minor troubles of colonial rule.

Even this would not have worked, because the real issue in Aden is not the struggle against the British, who are no more than the pig-in-the-middle of a fight for power among the Adenis themselves. It is now largely forgotten that the British were never able themselves to create a representative Aden Government because the factions could not be reconciled to each other and were reduced always to hand-picked administrations of individuals who were moderate or tractable or just liked office for its own sake.

The chance of getting something like a popular government was lost years ago when the attempt to find terms with the burgeoning Adeni movement appears to have been abandoned. During the last years of the Conservative Government the confidence of moderate middle-of-the-road men like Ali Mohammed Luqman was lost, although when Sir William Luce was Governor he was able to maintain a dialogue with the troublesome Abdullah al-Asnag, then leader of the Aden Trades Union Council and the man who, now, Sir Humphrey Trevelyan would most like to contact.

Whether Asnag now commands the widespread support he once had is open to doubt, for his prominence in the Front for the Liberation of South Yemen (FLOSY), and therefore with the U.A.R., must cast a shadow over Adenis who fear Egypt. The National Liberation Front has gathered within its fold those who oppose the Egyptian connexion and there is dissension among N.L.F. leaders over the attempt being made in Cairo to reestablish the links with FLOSY. The attempt is, in any case, fraught with difficulty, because it is based on the Egyptian assumption that the primary aim is liberation from British tutelage whereas the leaders of the factions are concerned with who succeeds the British.

Which of the two movements commands most support among the people it is impossible to say, but one can almost certainly rule out the South Arabian League as a major factor. Probably the majority of Adenis support neither, keeping themselves as much out of trouble as possible in the hope of tranquillity sometime in the near future; but the only certainty is that various quarters of the town are known to be N.L.F. or FLOSY territories.

A CHANCE OF CHANGE?

The High Commission has sought to make contact with FLOSY leaders outside the country, so far without success. It is, however, almost certain that some contact will already have been established with the N.L.F., for even journalists could do so with the minimum of preparation; and now that the ban on the Front has been lifted the leaders can enter more freely into discussions if they want to.

Whether they will do so is another matter. The prospect of either FLOSY or the N.L.F. agreeing to enter a more broadly based government alongside the tribal Ministers of the Federation is remote, which means that the British Government policy rests on the Federal Government as it is now. This may not prove as disastrous an outcome as the left-wing of the Labour Party may think, for the failure to create a more popular administration before independence on January 9 next year does not necessarily rule it out forever. If the independent government looks like keeping power, the politicos now warring among themselves and against the British will not want to exclude themselves from office indefinitely. Then, and perhaps only then, will the change take place.

Clearly the security of the independent government, whatever its form, is the crux of the matter. Those opponents of the British Government's new policy who criticize the naval and air support promised to South Arabia must either be ignorant of the situation or prepared to see the Federation disintegrate and the grant of independence to an Aden rapidly slipping into chaos. The idea that some happy, liberal, social democratic regime can mushroom out of the present mess and stand alone with or without the federal hinterland and without a modicum of British support is ludicrous. Without the stronger army and some guarantee for a limited future there cannot be an independent South Arabia.

This may be lamentable. It is certainly not the consummation devoutly wished for, and the British Government did their best to avoid the unpleasant decisions which both Lord Shackleton and Sir Humphrey Trevelyan felt compelled to call for. No doubt if the clock could be turned back a few years, if British Government policy had not been directed towards two diametrically opposed aims—to keep the military base and then to get rid of it—happier solutions might have been found. But now the facts must be faced as they are, and not as one would like them to be.

The form of military assistance is another matter. It seems to me to be using a sledgehammer to crack a nut; but then I do not believe that President Nasser is going to march his troops over the frontier from Yemen at the drop of a hat. His policy is to secure a government in Aden pliant to his policy, and simultaneously or subsequently secure a revolt in the British-trained Federal Army that will destroy the power of the tribal leaders in South Arabia. He will not, I believe, choose invasion in advance of these ends, but the mutiny in the Federal Army must have greatly encouraged him.

ENDEMIC DISORDER

The Arab defeat by Israel will not alter his policy, but it may change his mode of action. It does not need a return to the Arab world to know that at the moment the people of Cairo, Damascus, Amman and Baghdad are not concerned with Yemen or South Arabia but with the west bank of the Jordan, and cannot be roused to revolutionary fervour about their deep south when Old Jerusalem is in Jewish hands.

Disorder is endemic on the frontiers of South Arabia but it has in recent decades been handled as each occasion arose by a company of British troops with their Arab support and a few strike aircraft. It might have been more effective to offer this minor order of military support to the independent South Arabian Government than to pitch V-bombers on an island or float an aircraft carrier off the coast. Perhaps the psychological effect of the potentially massive strike had importance politically, but I would be surprised if it had meaning in the South Arabian conflicts of the future and it certainly has no meaning in a mutiny.

If, however, the South Arabian State is to be made viable the Eastern Protectorates must eventually come in, and they will not come in before they are absolutely sure that the independent government has the power to survive. Too much has been in doubt for too long for them to move in advance of certainty. For that reason alone, if for no other, the guarantees given to South Arabia are essential.

The guarantees may be of the wrong kind, or they may fail against subversion from within—for you cannot launch a V-bomber against a *coup d'état*—but nevertheless what could be done to give South Arabia a chance had to be given. And it had to be given now because there was no time left.

Aden struggle over who will succeed the British.
By Tom Little

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 21, 1967; pg. 9; Issue 56973.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS152267989

OECD split over oil as UK freight costs leap

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT—Paris, June 20

In the past few days delegates of the O.E.C.D. Council have been meeting privately to discuss the oil problem created by the Middle East war. Their conclusion was that a formal council discussion could only show to the world, and especially to the Arabs, that the western powers could not agree on the oil problem.

There are two camps. The French, and to a lesser extent the German, the Italian and other smaller European countries, except the Dutch, do not want to dramatize the situation. They believe that most of the Arab oil-producing countries would like now to come to terms and get back to normal.

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and even Egypt are resuming oil operations. The embargo on American and British deliveries will not last, they say. And the French add that to declare a state of emergency now would only show the Arabs how much " we need them and make them even more difficult to handle ". On the other hand, a brave show suggesting " We do not need you " would lead the Arabs to abandon their position, the French argue.

The American delegation takes the opposite view. Emergency is necessary, they say, and the sooner the better. It would impress the Arabs that " we are determined to fight through this affair and get back to normal as soon as possible ". The Americans are more or less followed by the British and the Dutch.

With no possibility of agreement between the two sides the O.E.C.D. was probably sensible not to put the oil question to today's meeting.

In Britain yesterday, writes *John Price*, a further sharp rise in freight charges for crude oil from Middle East ports put more pressure on the major oil companies to seek a temporary rise in the price of petrol. Shipbrokers last night were quoting Intascale charges, with a 90 per cent surcharge, of between £7 and £7 5s. a ton compared with between £6 10s. and £6 15s. a ton on the previous day.

Considering the charge per ton from the Middle East was only 32s. immediately before the crisis began on June 5, there is every reason to believe that, at the present rate, a surcharge of 150 per cent will be in force within the next week or so. Commenting on the sharp rise in freight costs a spokesman for Shell said last night that it was " another turn of the screw ".

Significantly, however, there has been no rise of any size in the rates being charged for Venezuelan crude which stands at about 50s. a ton. The big problem for the major oil companies now is not so much how high rates go —although this of course will be reflected in higher costs—but the shortage of tankers. All fixings for tankers to the Persian Gulf in June are now taken and it is fair to assume that any tanker capacity chartered for July will be at the rate of Intascale plus a 100 per cent surchage.

The question of supplies was discussed yesterday at a Cabinet meeting. Although the question of lifting the price of petrol was not on the agenda it is widely held throughout the oil industry that the supply position is such that the Government would have to approve a temporary increase of at least 2d. a gallon.

One of the subjects which, it is believed, was discussed at the meeting was the feasibility of introducing a graduated scale of rationing which would favour essential public services at the expense of the private motorist

Our Washington Correspondent cabled last night: American oil companies have endorsed a plan for meeting the oil emergency. The plan provides for the pooling of oil storage and shipping resources throughout the world.

Should there be no lifting of the embargo by the end of the month then consideration will be given to increasing oil production. Present thinking is that additional oil may have to be produced, almost certainly in Venezuela.

OECD split over oil as UK freight costs leap.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 21, 1967; pg. 19; Issue 56973.

Category: Business and Finance

Gale Document Number:CS320171221

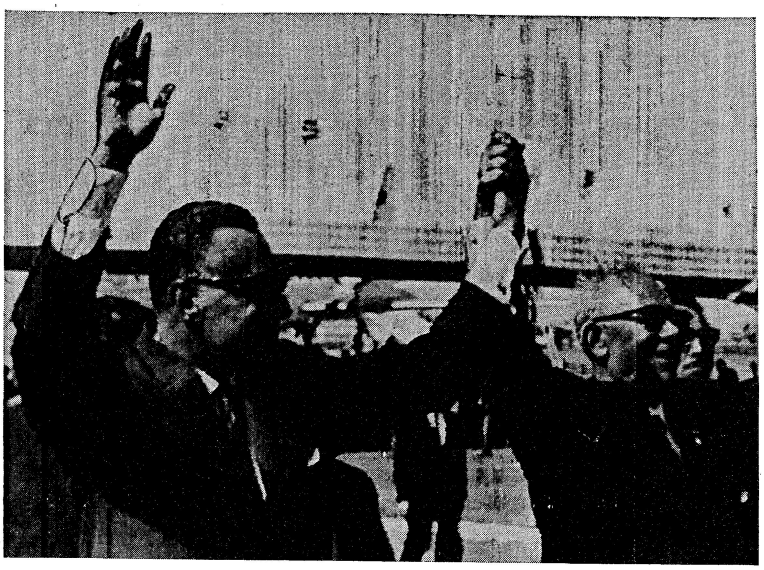
BRITISH TROOPS IN SEVEN-HOUR GUN FIGHT

12 still missing after Aden mutiny

British troops killed at least five Arab gunmen in a seven-hour battle with nationalists in renewed violence yesterday in Aden. The battle was for the Main Pass road leading into the Crater district, which was covered by Arabs entrenched behind old Turkish fortifications.

During the day the nationalists, who appeared to be in control of the Crater district, burned down the Aden Legislative Council building—a former church—and minor damage was caused by an attempt to set fire to a branch of the British Bank of the Middle East.

Casualties among British troops in Tuesday's encounters with mutinous members of the South Arabian forces and police were given in London yesterday as 10 killed, 29 wounded and 12 "missing believed killed". Nine bodies had been brought out of Crater by last night.



President Nasser and President Podgorny acknowledging the cheers of Egyptian crowds after the Soviet leader's arrival at Cairo airport yesterday. Russians prepare to rearm Egypt, page 4.

HELICOPTER FINDS FOUR ARABS DEAD

From IBRAHIM NOORI—Aden, June 21

The battle went on almost non-stop from dawn between Arab gunmen hiding behind the dominating old Turkish fortifications on the volcanic mountains of Crater Town and British troops who had sealed off the Marine Drive and Main Pass roads leading into Crater.

British Middle East Command said tonight that one British soldier was wounded and that four terrorists were reported to have been killed when an armoured car was used to knock out a machine-gun position in Crater.

The police had earlier said that five Arabs were killed and ten wounded in today's incidents.

The violence was an offshoot of yesterday's rioting in which elements of the South Arabian army and the South Arabian police took part.

Killed one by one

The British troops today apparently intended to go into Crater to recover a military helicopter brought down by sniper's fire and the bodies of 12 soldiers.

They were engaged by the gunmen in position on vantage points on the rocks overlooking the Marine Drive and Main Pass roads. Among the Arabs killed were four who for nearly seven hours kept firing at the troops on the Main Pass road, cut through the imposing volcanic rocks.

Hiding behind the strong semi-circular fortifications, the four men, firing through slits in the wall, repeatedly invited heavy volleys from the troops below. By early afternoon all had been killed, one by one.

A helicopter flying overhead saw their bodies, but the troops below thought they were having an afternoon siesta. News of their deaths came from Crater, from which other Arabs had climbed and had recovered the bodies for burial.

Jets ignored

During the morning two R.A.F. Hawker Hunter jets flew over Crater in an attempt to scare the four men and other gunmen, but to no avail.

Arabs in Crater burnt down the Aden Legislative Council building, which once was a protestant church, built in Queen Victoria's reign.

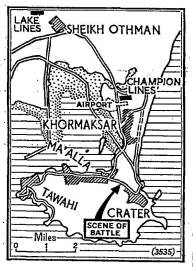
Some minor damage was caused when Arabs also set fire to a branch of the British Bank of the Middle East in Crater, the police said. Local security forces also arrested 15 rioters in a shoe shop.

The Middle East Command spokesman said tonight that nine bodies of British soldiers killed in Crater yesterday had been recovered.

The spokesman said that the British troops were in complete control of the roads connecting Crater with the rest of Aden. All action had been held up, he said, so as not to hamper the work of a repair party trying to restore water and electricity supplies stopped since yesterday.

"Any future action in Crater will be decided by the High Commissioner, Sir Humphrey Trevelyan, in consultation with the security forces commander tomorrow."

The spokesman said there had been large fires in Crater today,



but he did not say what was being burnt.

In the Maalla area there were outbreaks of arson and looting, none very serious. Tear gas was used on one occasion by the civil police to disperse a crowd. There were also two grenade and three small arms fire incidents in Maalla. In the Sheikh Othman suburb troops escaped unhurt in seven incidents.

More men go out to Aden, page 4.

More MiGs sent to Egypt

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, JUNE 21

Since the United Arab Republic accepted a cease-fire in the fighting with Israel 150 more MiG-21 aircraft are believed to have arrived there, according to *Aviation Week*.

In addition, a squadron each of MiG-17s and Il-28s have been withdrawn from Yemen, the magazine states. Forty military cargo craft landed in Cairo during the weekend of June 10 and 11, carrying equipment and supplies for the remnants of the Arab armies, and a ship-load of Soviet tanks from Algiers arrived in Alexandria at about the same time.

Prospect of summit is brighter

FROM OUR UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, JUNE 21

Prospects for an early meeting between President Johnson and Mr. Kosygin brightened today through the intervention of Mr. Averill Harriman, the United States Ambassador at Large, according to American sources.

Mr. Harriman is said to be trying to organize a meeting at his estate in upper New York State.

According to the sources, Mr. Dean Rusk, the Secretary of State, who is the host at what is described as a "business dinner" tonight to Mr. Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, is making the official arrangements for the Johnson-Kosygin meeting which may take place within the next day or so.

A man carrying a loaded .22 revolver and a hunting knife in a blue bag was arrested today as he tried to get into the Soviet Mission to the United Nations. Mr. Kosygin was inside at the time.

The police identified the man as Michael Natale Rocco, aged about 40. He told security men that he did not want to see Mr. Kosygin, merely to talk to a delegate about peace. He said over and over again: "I didn't intend to harm anyone."

Mr. Brown invited

WASHINGTON, June 21.—President Johnson is to receive Mr. George Brown, the British Foreign Secretary, at the White House tomorrow.

The White House announced the meeting as an unexpected addition to Mr. Johnson's schedule. It declined to say what the two statesmen would discuss. —*Reuter.*

Arrest picture; Mr. Brown wants U.N. peacemaker, page 4.

Negroes held in 'murder plot'

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, JUNE 21

Twelve Negro men and four women were arrested before dawn this morning during raids in New York and in Philadelphia, on suspicion of conspiracy to murder moderate civil rights leaders and attempt to seize power by force.

At the head of the assassination list according to police was Mr. Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured

SHORTS FIGHT PLAN TO OUST CHAIRMAN

By ROYDEN HODSON, Industrial Correspondent

The full board of directors of the Belfast aircraft firm, Short Brothers and Harland, held an emergency meeting in London last night to try to forestall a Government plan, thought to be to change the firm's industrial role.

Rumours reached the directors earlier this week that it was proposed to take the company out of aviation and to replace their chairman, Mr. Cuthbert Wrangham. They challenged the Government, who own 69½ per cent of the shares, to issue a full denial. This was refused.

Instead, Mr. Wedgwood Benn's Ministry of Technology stated last night, just before the directors met, that the company were passing through a period of reorganization and the question was under discussion of a successor to Mr. Wrangham to lead the company "in the new phase which lies ahead". The statement also denied that Shorts would be taken out of aviation.

At state's mercy

All nine directors expressed "unanimous and wholehearted confidence" in Mr. Wrangham last night. They decided to ask why Mr. Benn wished to replace him.

Shorts, with 6,000 workers, are a mainstay of the Northern Ireland economy. Mr. Wrangham, in his six years as chairman, has fought to keep them in aircraft while diversifying into other manufacturing lines. Without him Northern Ireland would regard Shorts as more at Westminster's mercy.

Shorts, whose first contract was from Wilbur and Orville Wright, are finishing 10 Belfast transports for the R.A.F. at Government insistence, and are being underwritten for a £15m. loss on the order.

They are building the Seacat, a best-seller missile bought by 12 navies; the Tigercat, a land version of Seacat; wing-tips for the Phantom strike aircraft; wings for the new Fokker Fellowship; and the Skyvan, which has won orders for 50 aircraft from the United States worth £6m.

The directors want to go on in aircraft for new Skyvan orders—"a rosy prospect", one of them said last night; and for a second generation supersonic Seacat. They also have hopes for Blowpipe, an infantry weapon.

Minister's pledge

Outside aircraft, Shorts are making carpet sweepers, fork-lift trucks, armoured cars, medical instruments, and a machine for making fence-poles.

The 1965 Plowden report offered small prospects in aircraft for Shorts. But Mr. Roy Jenkins said that year, when he was Minister of Aviation, that the company was "part of the British aircraft industry and will remain part of it".

Mr. Wrangham, who is 59, was deputy chairman of Davy-Ashmore before joining Shorts, and earlier worked for the Ministry of Aircraft Production.

Late last night the Ministry of Technology said they had nothing to add to their statement.

Our Political Correspondent writes:—Mr. Wedgwood Benn will face questions about Shorts in the Commons on Tuesday. Mr. Chichester-Clarke, Ulster Unionist M.P. for Londonderry, last night tabled a question about the chairmanship.

The first alarms of Ulster Unionist M.P.s were quietened last night when they had what seemed to them satisfactory assurances that Shorts' future was not in danger.

10s pension increase from November

BY OUR POLITICAL STAFF

Old age pensions and other social security benefits are to be increased from the beginning of November. The standard rate of benefit is to go up by 10s. to £4 10s. a week for a single person, and by 16s. for a married couple, making £7 6s.

There will be corresponding increases in other payments, and service pensions will be increased by Royal Warrant. The total cost of the improvements will be about £220m. a year.

A surprise provision in the National Insurance Bill, published yesterday, will allow the Government to vary family allowances between July and April 8 next year.

Two schemes

Miss Herbison, Minister of Social Security, explained that the Government's proposals for helping poorer families would be announced before the summer recess, but they were seeking the power to vary family allowances so that any "interim improvements" could operate from the same date as the increases in other benefits.

The Government are known to have under consideration two schemes for eliminating child poverty. One would be related to income tax changes and could not come into effect until the next financial year; the other would involve increases in family allowances on a selective basis. If the Government adopt the second scheme, it would be possible for them to introduce it this autumn by an order under the Bill.

A straightforward increase in family allowances, across the board, has been ruled out.

Long-term plans are being made to use the income tax system to eliminate separate payments of grants for children attending university, education grants, and rent and rate rebates. But this is not likely to be possible until the work of the Inland Revenue is fully computerized.

Family benefits decision delay, page 2; Leading article, page 11.

40s libel award to Goody

From RONALD FAUX, Leicester, June 21

Douglas Gordon Goody was [illegible] Sir Joseph Molony, Q.C., for [illegible] "Here was a man with no

British Troops In Seven-Hour Gun Fight.
From IBRAHIM NOORI

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 22, 1967; pg. 1; Issue 56974.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS17001686

Russians prepare to rearm Egypt

Mr Podgorny in Cairo

The rearming of Egypt with Russian weapons is expected after the arrival in Cairo yesterday of President Podgorny. He is joining Marshal Zakharov, the Soviet Chief of Staff, in talks with President Nasser.

In the General Assembly, Mr. Brown, the British Foreign Secretary, recommended that a special United Nations representative should be sent to the Middle East. General de Gaulle said in Paris that France regarded none of Israel's territorial gains as final.

From NICHOLAS HERBERT, Beirut, June 21

President Podgorny of the Soviet Union arrived in Cairo today for talks with President Nasser, aimed at restoring the Egyptian leader's political and military fortunes. He arrived from Belgrade, where President Tito is thought to have offered assistance in moving new Soviet weapons across the Mediterranean, and was rapturously received by a large Egyptian crowd.

The presence in Egypt already of Marshal Matviev Zakharov, Chief of Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces, bespeaks the Russians' continued interest in arming the Arabs, and President Podgorny's arrival is in itself a sufficient political boost to put new spring into his host's step. As President, Prime Minister and head of the Arab Socialist Union, Mr. Nasser is Podgorny, Kosygin and Brezhnev rolled into one, which gives him a huge stake in a successful recovery after defeat.

Israel over-confidence

Surprisingly, perhaps, things are not going at all badly from the Arab point of view at the United Nations, where Israel, like an over-confident prizefighter, seems to have exposed its chin once or twice. President Nasser evidently has little confidence that there will be an opportunity for a diplomatic knockout in New York and, indeed, there has been little sign that real progress is possible there.

However, Mr. Abba Eban, the Israel Foreign Minister, can hardly have advanced his cause by crossing swords with U Thant, the Secretary-General, over the withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force.

President Johnson, too, seemed intent on slighting the United Nations by choosing to make his address on the Middle East outside the General Assembly, just an hour before the first session began.

Whether by good luck or good judgment, the Arab world is at present taking the sensible step of keeping quiet—as quiet, that is, as the Arab world is ever capable of keeping—and letting its opponents make mistakes.

There is a great deal of largely irrelevant noise about napalm, horrible weapon though it is, but the Arab countries have made praiseworthy efforts of their own to alleviate the sufferings of refugees in Jordan.

There has been much outside help as well, and the plight of King Husain's country, in particular, has captured the world's imagination. There was a report today that Arab countries might club together to give Jordan the budgetary aid it has been getting from Washington, so that the King could abandon his dependence on the United States. It will have to be seen to be believed, but the King has earned much kudos by his conduct during the war.

Here again there is a feeling that Israel may be over-reaching itself. Britain is reported to have spoken out against a plan to annex the old walled city of Jerusalem to Israel at once, and the idea is now said to have been dropped. Reports of families being evicted from their homes to make room in front of the Wailing Wall will do the Arab cause no harm, it is felt, and the overall refugee problem is appalling.

Early Arab summit

Jordan is pressing for an early Arab summit and, according to Bahjat Talhouni, the King's personal representative now visiting Beirut, will feel free to take unilateral action as it sees fit if the meeting is not held soon.

Yesterday the King received Major-General Shukri, the Iraq Defence Minister, and Major-General Nasir bin Jamil, his deputy Chief of Staff, arrived in Jidda for talks with King Faisal of Saudi Arabia.

Russians prepare to rearm Egypt.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 22, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56974.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67333334

Arab refugees on the move again

By Patrick Brogan

A week ago in Tel Aviv General Chaim Hertzog, Military Governor of the Jordanian territories Israel conquered during the war, said there was no longer any movement of refugees on the roads of occupied territory and that the Israeli authorities had decided to permit anyone who wanted to leave to do so. Transport down to the Jordan would be provided. He thought that at the most a few thousand would go, mostly East Bankers caught by the Israeli advance, police, soldiers hiding in the towns, businessmen and visitors.

He has been proved wrong. People are moving down in a steady stream, and although many are undoubtedly East Bankers wanting to get home very many can only be classed as refugees moved by collective panic.

When the Israeli army occupied the West Bank there was a general movement of population eastwards. The refugee camps around Jericho and the towns along the Jordan were virtually emptied. Crossing the river was easy and years of propaganda had convinced the population that the arriving Israelis would massacre them on the spot. The empty camps were occupied by people fleeing from the hills. Thousands of the Arab inhabitants of Jerusalem and the surrounding districts fled towards Jordan, and stopped at Jericho: the Israelis reached the river first.

So they stopped, and when their panic subsided returned home. Jerusalem fell on Wednesday and on Sunday General Hertzog gave the new refugees permission to return to their homes and the long, steep and horribly hot road from the Dead Sea up to the Judean hills was lined by people—women, children and old men—going back to their homes with their belongings on their backs or balanced on asses.

The same thing happened around Jenin in the north, where the Israeli army met the stiffest resistance of the campaign, and to a lesser extent in the other towns. Hebron was untouched by the fighting and the population stayed where they were—and so, unusually, did the Jordanian administration.

RENEWED PANIC?

The question now is whether panic has again seized the Arab population and a new mass exodus threatens. It is important to state that the Israelis are not driving the Arabs out, save in a few instances. The dispossessed Arabs are not being driven across the Jordan, however, although it would be easy to find many Israelis, including members of the Cabinet, who would be quite ready to do so. They are merely standing spectators to the movements of population, and making sure that no one who goes over can come back.

In the first few days after the conquest, people were allowed back. A policy decision was taken by the Government, however, that Israel should keep the options open—and this meant that if it were decided to keep the West Bank the fewer Arabs there the better.

It must remain unlikely that there will be any great movement comparable to that of 1948-49. For one thing, the Israelis then deliberately drove out many of the Arabs, and stimulated and encouraged panic among them. For another, Radio Amman is broadcasting desperate appeals to the Arabs to stay where they are. None the less, 70,000 or 80,000 people have crossed the river, and thousands more are going over every day. It is hard to see how Jordan can survive such an influx, coupled with the loss of its major sources of income, tourism and the farms along the valley.

Israel rather counts on the catastrophic situation King Husain now finds himself in to bring him to the conference table. The sort of settlement which remains most probable is the return to Jordan of the greater part of the West Bank, and this would mean that the new refugees could go home again, and the unsatisfactory state they were in a month ago would be restored.

SHUFFLING OF PEOPLE

Israel hopes that, with a peace treaty, an economic agreement between herself and Jordan could be signed, and the refugee problem would be solved in the context of regional economic development. Voices in Israel, including Ben-Gurion's, urge that the refugees from the camps in the Gaza strip could be transferred to the West Bank and settled there.

All this geopolitical speculation, this shuffling of whole populations around the map, is one of the most distasteful of Israeli characteristics. The argument that there is plenty of room for millions of refugees in Syria and Iraq and that the Palestinians should be sent there is almost universally believed.

The Jews, of all people, ought to recognize this doctrine for what it is, a form of genocide, much favoured by Stalin, among others, but in fact voices of sympathy for the refugees are very few in Israel. This is largely the Arabs' fault: when Damascus and Cairo Radio ceaselessly repeated, in Hebrew as well as Arabic, that all the Jews in Israel would be massacred and that the coming war would be one of extermination, the Israelis naturally put national survival first.

This is certainly assured for the next decade at least. One of the things demonstrated by the war was how little Jordan was a threat. There used to be an oft-heard argument that a glance at a map shows how easily Israel could be cut in two by a brisk drive to the sea from the Jordanian salient. Israeli Jerusalem would be beseiged and pincer movements would close in on Tel Aviv.

The Israeli Army never believed this. They had only the sketchiest contingency plans to cope with a Jordanian offensive. The Jordanians did not believe it either. They had no plans at all for any of those offensives so obvious to armchair strategists, and their defensive plans were reduced to hopeless confusion by the abrupt imposition of an Egyptian command.

JORDAN NO THREAT

When the Jordanians began shelling Israel when the war began, the Israeli command could hardly believe it. Indeed, they left counter-action for some hours until it was obvious that Jordan, or rather the Egyptian officers, really meant business. Israel then eliminated the Arab Legion and occupied the West Bank in 48 hours, using for the purpose troops destined for the Syrian front.

The Israeli and Jordanian strategists were thus proved right: Jordan is no sort of threat to Israel, save as a base for terrorists or for shelling Israeli territory. Indeed that vast salient was wholly at Israel's mercy, not the other way round at all.

The only real threat to Israel, in the future as in the past, comes from Egypt and, to a much lesser extent, Syria, which is why the future of the Arab populations of the Gaza strip and Sinai and the refugees from the Syrian hills occupied by Israel is much more gloomy than that of the West Bankers. Israel would lose very little by returning most of the West Bank to Jordan, and could gain immensely by signing a peace treaty. Evacuating those areas of Syria and Egypt she occupies is a quite different matter.

The population of the Gaza strip is about 100,000, and there are 250,000 refugees living in camps there. There may be another 50,000 people living in Sinai, principally in the coastal strip, including Rafah and El Arish, and along the east bank of the Suez Canal.

There are not even the roughest guesses of what proportion of the Sinai population has fled to Egypt, but it must be high. The Gaza strip, however, remains as it was. Indeed, large numbers of the Palestinian Liberation Army and the Egyptian Army are still believed to be there, hiding among the rest of the people.

A NEW COLONIALISM

It is easy to see how Israel would be tempted to annex the strip and the habitable parts of northern Sinai. Incorporating the present inhabitants into Israel would be the work of decades: the comparatively harmless Arab population, much of it Christian, living in northern Israel only graduated to the status of second class citizens this spring, when military rule in their villages was abolished after 19 years. They can now, more or less, be trusted.

It is hard to see the Israelis trusting the embittered Gaza refugees even after 19 years, even if jobs and homes could be found for them immediately. Although it would certainly hasten the day when Israel will be accepted as a Middle Eastern state if she were now to absorb large numbers of Arabs, it is difficult to see her trying. If Arabs, Israelis and their sponsors could be persuaded to recognize this, it might be possible to work for a more modest solution, the development of the Gaza strip and northern Sinai to give their inhabitants a decent living. The model would be Israel itself: there is a striking contrast between the Israeli coastal plain and the Gaza strip.

But there are precious few signs of the Arabs, notably the Egyptians, accepting the recognition of Israel implicit in such a plan. There would therefore seem to be a long period ahead of us, with the Israeli army in occupation on the banks of the Suez Canal or at any rate in Gaza whose population would then be in the worst possible position, refugees in Israel. It would be a new sort of colonialism, and all Israel's victories would have turned to sand.

Arab refugees on the move again.
By Patrick Brogan

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 22, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56974.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS186084566

King Faisal offers aid to Jordan

Healing the war wounds

From NICHOLAS HERBERT, Beirut, June 22

King Faisal has told King Husain that all Saudi Arabia's resources are available to help and strengthen Jordan, it was officially announced in Amman today. The resources are considerable and consist mostly of money, which Jordan particularly needs, but there is also a political element and King Faisal mentioned arms as well.

Faced with the loss of the west bank, King Husain doubtless feels a special need to cement relations with his immediate Arab neighbours. Jidda was the obvious place to begin and the report brought back by King Husain's special envoy, Sherif Nasser Ben Jamil, was encouraging.

It confirmed that the ideological alliance with Saudi Arabia has survived the Egypt-Jordan defence agreement and the war which followed it so quickly. Saudi troops are said to be still on Jordan soil, though they are immobilized by the collapse of their transport vehicles, and King Faisal is said to have stated that Saudi forces and funds were at King Husain's disposal as they had always been.

Problem of Iraq

Iraqi forces, though equally late on the scene, shed blood on the battlefield beside their Jordanian brothers, which may make for a new order of fraternity, but relations with Baghdad set a more difficult problem. Iraq, for example, is in the forefront of those Arab countries boycotting trade with Britain and the United States while Jordan has paid little attention to this campaign. Indeed anti-British feeling in Amman is said largely to have evaporated, though it is apparently survived by resentment against the United States. The basic ideological difference remains between "revolutionary" Iraq and "reactionary" or "traditionalist" Jordan, although Baghdad radio said today that President Abdul Rahman Arif was ready to accept King Husain's call for a summit to be held before next Saturday.

The chances of this timing being adhered to seem slight as other affirmative replies to the King's proposed timetable have come only from Libya, Lebanon and Kuwait. As yet the principal revolutionary countries, Egypt, Syria and Algeria, have seemed more concerned with their relationships outside the Arab world. President Nasser doubtless prefers a *tête à tête* with President Podgorny to the rough and tumble of an Arab summit in Khartoum. Dr. Atassi, the Syrian leader, is sticking to Mr. Kosygin and the air conditioning of New York and Colonel Boumédienne has already basked in the bright lights of the Kremlin. If they could get into the Élysée Palace, their collective cups would run over, for after yesterday's French condemnation of Israel, the General's stock is higher than ever.

To the north, therefore, King Husain looks like having a difficult time and the Syrian government newspaper, *Al Thawra*, suggested today that nothing very much had changed in so far as relations among Arab states were concerned.

Palestine agony

The King has also been in direct touch with President Charles Helou of Lebanon, a near-neighbour to the north; and his personal envoy, Mr. Bahjat Talhouni, has raised considerable speculation by suggesting that Jordan might take action on its own if it could not inspire a formal attempt at Arab unity. He expressed disenchantment with the Arab foreign Ministers, who he said had ended their talks in Kuwait without consultation with their governments, but he did not amplify his government's intentions. There are doubtless many in Jordan who would put an end to the whole agony of Palestine and come to terms but, with a mounting campaign against alleged Israeli atrocities and a continued flood of refugees, such a course would seem politically impossible at present.

King Faisal offers aid to Jordan.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 23, 1967; pg. 6; Issue 56975.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS100887767

PODGORNY—NASSER DISCUSSIONS

SOVIET ARMS IN CAIRO

From STEWART HARRIS—Cairo, June 22

President Nasser and President Podgorny held a second round of talks this evening, with Mr. Jacob Malik, the Soviet deputy Foreign Minister, and Mr. Dmitri Pojidaev, the Russian Ambassador here, both taking part.

Last night, soon after his arrival, Mr. Podgorny went to President Nasser's home in the suburb of Manshiet el Bakry, and after dinner the two men talked until midnight.

Not even the authoritative newspaper *Al Ahram*, whose editor is thought to be still very close to President Nasser, revealed anything abut the subsance of the talks.

Marshal Zakharov, the Soviet Chief of Staff, was at the dinner and at the subsequent discussion.

Al Ahram this morning reported a dialogue between President Nasser and Mr. Podgorny, which presumably took place at the airport.

President Nasser is supposed to have said that visits to different parts of Egypt would have been appreciated by the Soviet leader, but it was clear that the work ahead would take up most of the time available. Then Mr. Podgorny responded: "The imperialists and their stooges imagine we came here to exchange social talk on friendship between us, but together we will prove to them we mean more than this kind of talk."

Diplomatists in Cairo have just been asked by the Government not to go beyond the limits of the city. However, tomorrow foreign correspondents will be allowed for the first time since June 5 to visit the Suez Canal zone, though only on a conducted tour.

Some responsible observers here are convinced that new military equipment has already arrived from the Soviet Union and they have reported seeing lorries, anti-aircraft guns and Soviet transport aircraft at Cairo airport. But there is no confirmation that they have arrived since the cease-fire.

Soviet Arms In Cairo.
From STEWART HARRIS

The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 23, 1967; pg. 6; Issue 56975.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS101412055

LEAVING EGYPT

From Mr. E. G. Turner

Sir,—We feel we should like to make known, through your columns, the helpfulness, friendliness and courtesy shown by the Egyptian authorities to the members of an archaeological expedition from this Society which has just left Egypt. The expedition had been working at a Pharaonic site in the Egyptian Delta under the direction of Dr. V. Seton-Williams. When the excavations were discontinued, for the moment, on June 9, the decision to leave Egypt was made by her voluntarily and without pressure.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

E. G. TURNER, Chairman of the Commitee.

The Egypt Exploration Society, 2 Hinde Street, W.1.

Leaving Egypt.
E. G. TURNER, Chairman of the Commitee. The Egypt Exploration Society, 2 Hinde Street, W.1

The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 23, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56975.

Category: Letters to the Editor

Gale Document Number:CS186084567

Explaining the Foreign Secretary

MR. SHINWELL (Easington, Lab.) asked the Prime Minister what Government decisions had been taken to enable the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to explain British policy on the Middle East at the United Nations Assembly.

MR. WILSON.—The House will by this time have read reports of the Foreign Secretary's speech at the General Assembly of the United Nations yesterday. I am placing a full text of the speech in the Library of the House.

The Foreign Secretary was expressing certain principles, drawn from the Charter of the United Nations, on which our general approach to a solution of the Arab-Israel conflict is based.

He was not of course attempting to put forward any detailed proposals for an eventual settlement.

'Irresponsible criticism'

MR. SHINWELL.—What the Foreign Secretary did at the United Nations Assembly was to indulge in irresponsible criticism of the Israeli Government, including threats if the Israeli Government failed to carry out a certain policy.

Was he representing the policy of her Majesty's Government, and, if so, was he taking sides for the first time? Was he representing the declared view of members of this assembly?

MR. WILSON.—He was representing the policy of the Government. He was not taking sides.

It is my view, and Mr. Shinwell's question has confirmed it, that there has been some misunderstanding and misinterpretation of what the Foreign Secretary was saying there, and what he was trying to do.

What he did was to lay down the principle that all these matters he referred to were for decision in the eventual settlement.

When he referred to Israel on this particular point he was warning Israel against taking any immediate unilateral action, for example, by formal accession of a quasi-legal character, or by legislation, which would harden or make permanent their grip on the territory they captured.

He felt, and I think that the House would feel, that if this were done it would prejudice the prospects of a satisfactory all-round settlement which we should all be aiming for and which is just as much to the advantage of Israel as to the other countries.

Territorial gain

MR. HEATH (Bexley, C.).—The Foreign Secretary used the phrase "There must be no territorial aggrandizement of any kind following the recent conflict", which has been widely interpreted, certainly in this country, as meaning that Israel must go back to the status quo before the recent conflict.

Would not the Foreign Secretary be better advised to continue to urge that there should be negotiations between the two sides to achieve a reasonable and permanent settlement, which would provide security for Israel as well as a peaceful and prosperous existence for the Arab countries? (Opposition cheers.)

MR. WILSON.—He was pressing for negotiation, and from the text of the whole speech and not just those parts so far reported, this will be clear. He was pressing not necessarily for negotiations between the two sides — although this would be valuable it might not be realistic, and there are other possibilities, including four-power talks and discussions at the United Nations. (Opposition cries of "Wriggle".) This is a serious matter.

As regards territorial aggrandizement, which was in his speech on Saturday, the Foreign Secretary was warning against the idea that boundaries could be settled by military action. Boundaries have to be settled by all out settlement. This settlement could be of the greatest value in giving both security all round, and it certainly ought to.

If such a settlement were to include—for the first time—recognition of the right of Israel to have an existence, security through international waterways for her goods, as well as dealing with some of the international anxieties on both sides, and dealing with the problem of refugees, this would be a valuable prize. Nothing should be done in the short term to make it more difficult.

New neutralism

MR. THORPE (North Devon, L.).—Since the Government has attached some moral significance to remaining neutral in what many regard as a highly controversial issue, could we know why the Foreign Secretary made this remark about territorial aggrandizement?

As the Russians have continued to supply arms to Egypt, and when no Arab state has agreed to negotiate with the Israeli Government, are we to take it that this is a new definition of neutralism, in which one is more neutral to one side than to the other.

MR. WILSON.—I do not accept this for one moment. We will not get a settlement advantageous to Israel if it is associated with the idea that what has been seized in the war should automatically become part of a permanent frontier.

Israel, and everyone else in the Middle East, has more to gain from a settlement in which these matters are settled by negotiation. The Foreign Secretary felt it was right to say this because of the immediate dangers of the chances being prejudiced by action such as legislation in the Knesset.

MR. SHINWELL said that in view of the thoroughly unsatisfactory reply, and in the absence of an early debate, he proposed to raise the matter of the Foreign Secretary's speech at the United Nations on an early date.

Explaining the Foreign Secretary.
The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 23, 1967; pg. 16; Issue 56975.

Category: Politics and Parliament

Gale Document Number:CS268922071

'Canal could become Nasser's ditch'

By MICHAEL JONES

Egypt was warned yesterday that the Suez Canal could become "Nasser's Ditch" if British shipowners decided to abandon it as one of their chief trade routes. Anthony Cayzer, president of the Chamber of Shipping, said in London that Britain's dependence on the Canal would have to be reviewed.

Any abandonment was bound to affect the economic position of Egypt as well as cut its canal revenue, he said. Speaking in a personal capacity, he added: "We can't go on like this with the danger of the Canal suddenly being closed."

The chamber council decided yesterday to continue to press for a three-point settlement of the Suez crisis involving:—

(1) The speedy reopening of the Canal to ships of all flags without discrimination:
(2) Firm guarantees for the proper administration of the Canal as an international waterway; and
(3) An end to the Arab League boycott of ships concerned with trading to Israeli ports.

"The boycott has been going on for 10 years. Now we have a crisis around which a settlement might be made", he said.

Heavy losses had been sustained by the shipping industry as a result of the Suez dislocation to trade. Lord Geddes, chamber vice-president, said that the cost of diverting the P. & O. flagship, Canberra, caught by the blockade two days off Port Said, was over £100,000.

Despite the lack of reaction from the United Nations the chamber hoped that its request for a United Nations survey of the Canal blockage would be heeded.

U S compliments for the Bank

WASHINGTON, June 22.—The U.S. Treasury has tipped its hat to the Bank of England for the skill shown during the 1964-65 sterling crisis.

The Treasury's annual report to Congress includes a review of international actions to support sterling during the periods of heavy pressure.

"While short-time central bank credits and subsequent loans provided the basic defence line for sterling during this troubled period", the report says, "inadequate recognition has been given to the success of Bank of England operations in the forward market that were conducted forcefully and with great technical skill".

'Canal could become Nasser's ditch'.
By MICHAEL JONES

The Times (London, England),Friday, Jun 23, 1967; pg. 21; Issue 56975.

Category: Business and Finance

Gale Document Number:CS353987799

KING HUSAIN WILL GO TO UN

Arab summit postponed

From NORMAN FOWLER, Amman, June 23

King Husain of Jordan said in a broadcast to the nation tonight that he was leaving for the United Nations in New York to raise the voice of the Arabs and to explain the Arab cause.

He was leaving Jordan more than ever convinced in Arab unity. The next few weeks would decide the future of generations to come.

The King said that the Arab summit conference would now have to be postponed. All the Arab leaders to whom he had sent invitations had agreed in principle, but a decision on the meeting would have to be taken later.

King Husain spoke particularly to the people on the west bank of the River Jordan. He said that he was going to the United Nations for their sake and assured them that the clouds would soon be lifted. He called on the people on the west bank not to leave their homes, and warned them against cooperating in any plans of the Israelis.

Postponement of the summit will be a blow to King Husain, as he had hoped for a new Arab approach from it. Even before the war the king was very much a summit man, believing that he would be able to put successfully his own and his country's position to other Arab leaders.

Since the end of the war this has been increased by his determination not to let the Middle East become the scene of an east-west conflict, but he may now try to achieve his aims before the General Assembly.

As Husain derives support from the west in the shape of the United States and Britain, he clearly has the most to lose as the odd man out in the Arab world. His hopes for a new Arab plan and spirit seem to have been frustrated mainly by President Nasser, who is preoccupied with his relations outside the Arab world as well as feeling he has not much to gain at what could easily become a long session of recrimination; and by Dr. Atassi, the Syrian leader, who is also against it.

Question of arms

All this means that the king may have to make a swift reappraisal of his policy. He has weathered the short-term crisis remarkably well and his prestige seems now to be higher than before the war, but in the long term he cannot afford to be seen lagging behind his Arab neighbours.

This problem becomes particularly intense on the question of arms. If, as seems likely, Egypt and Syria are supplied with arms from Russia, King Husain will also need arms to replace the mountains of tanks and equipment lost in the war. His need is even more intense because his power depends upon the Army and it is no longer the case that the Army can be taken absolutely for granted. If neither the United States nor Britain is prepared to supply him with arms then Husain may be forced to shop with Russia also.

One factor which increases the King's difficulties is the west Bank. Jordan is particularly concerned about its speedy recovery and suspects that Israel will make attempts to undermine the King's influence there. Even before the war, relations with the Palestinians on the west Bank were often uneasy and this explains the warning against collaboration with the Israel authorities.

I understand that this warning was paricularly directed at the town of Hebron, which lies between the dunes of the Dead Sea and Israel. Without a unified Arab policy on the recovery of this territory King Husain's main hope now lies with the United Nations. Mr. George Brown's speech in New York has encouraged some here—although it certainly has not restored Britain's position—and the King may try to build on this.

Cairo troops 'on move'

CAIRO, June 23.—Eye-witnesses reported large Egyptian troop movements eastwards towards the Suez Canal early today from the base at Heliopolis outside Cairo.—*Agence France Presse.*

BEIRUT, June 23.—President Podgorny of the Soviet Union will leave for home tomorrow after his talks with President Nasser, Cairo radio reported tonight.

President Podgorny flew to Cairo on Wednesday night to sound out President Nasser's views on the Middle East crisis. A Soviet military mission is also in Cairo, studying the United Arab Republic's defence needs after its defeat in Sinai.—*Reuter.*

Paper to cease publication

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

BOSTON, MASS., JUNE 23

The Boston *Traveler,* founded in 1825, will suspend operations on July 10, it was disclosed today. Mr. George Akerson, the publisher, met the board of directors of the newspaper today and recommended that the afternoon paper be discontinued.

The *Traveler* is part of the Herald-Traveler Corporation which publishes the morning *Herald,* the afternoon *Traveler* and the Sunday *Herald.* The *Traveler* had a circulation of more than 140,000.

King Husain Will Go To Un.
From NORMAN FOWLER

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 24, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56976.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS68119768

MIDDLE EAST DEBATE

Rumania takes its own line

Mr Maurer's UN plea

From ERIC BRITTER, United Nations Correspondent, New York, June 23

Like a long-distance runner entering the home straight and glancing over his shoulder to see how the rest of the field is doing, the United Nations General Assembly today plodded through the fifth day of its debate on the Middle East crisis.

The representatives of 10 or more countries spoke, and while most of them condemned Israel for "aggression", it was noteworthy that at least three countries —Canada, Sweden and, most significantly, Rumania—refrained from condemnation.

In the lobbies, delegates were agreed that the Johnson-Kosygin meeting at Glassboro, New Jersey, was more important than anything happening here and would have a determining influence on how the Middle East crisis is ended.

If there is a meeting of minds between the American President and the Soviet Prime Minister, then the chances are that extreme courses in the United Nations or the Middle East will be avoided.

Apathetic feeling

In the General Assembly hall the atmosphere was somewhat lackadaisical and even apathetic. The body of the hall was more than half empty and the galleries were not filled.

However, the pro-Arab elements in the Assembly were well represented and they gave a hearty round of applause to every speaker who took issue with Israel. The more balanced speeches, too, were well received.

MR. ION GHEORGHE MAURER, the Rumanian Prime Minister, expressed the views which drew most interest. He told the Assembly that his country considered that Israel should withdraw from all occupied territory and renounce all claims to territorial gains resulting from its military actions.

He went on to urge the need for "negotiations and agreements" among the countries of the Middle East and for eschewing the use of force. In other words, unlike the rest of the Communist group, which supports the Arabs in their continued vendetta against Israel, Rumania has come out in favour of a peaceful settlement.

Moderate approach

Mr. Maurer made no mention of "aggression" or the need to condemn it. He did call for the elimination of all foreign interference in the affairs of the countries of the Middle East and spoke of the need to respect the independence and sovereign existence of all those countries.

This comparatively moderate and dispassionate approach, while it is not popular with the Arabs and their



Mr. Paul Martin, Canadian Minister of External Affairs.

champions, is close to the "bridge-building" tactics now being followed by other neutral countries in their behind-the-scenes talks.

MR. PAUL MARTIN, the Canadian External Affairs Secretary, made much the same approach. Mr. Martin also emphasized the need to respect the territorial integrity of the nations concerned, and with this he advocated a just solution of the refugee problem, the rights of all nations to innocent passage through international waterways, and international concern for the Holy Places in Jerusalem.

MR. SVERKER ASTROM (Sweden) went farther by saying that he did not feel that the Assembly should sit in judgment and weigh the guilt of those involved in the Middle East war. Such an attempt might reduce the chances of promoting a just and lasting solution.

He made it clear that Sweden would not vote for a resolution condemning one or the other country.

MUHAMMAD HASHIM MAIWANDWAL, the Prime Minister of Afghanistan, was, on the other hand, one of the speakers who pulled no punches in damning Israel for her actions.

He said that this was not the first time that Israel had committed aggression and not the first time that she had flouted the decisions of the United Nations. That organization, he asserted, was now on trial before humanity, and if it failed to check aggression the world's faith in it would be shaken.

MR. TIKHON KISELYOV, the Prime Minister of Byelorussia, also supported the Arab nations against Israel. Countries of the Communist block—other than Rumania—were in fact monolithic in their attitude.



Mr. Maurer, Prime Minister of Rumania.

They supported the Soviet resolution which demands condemnation of Israel and withdrawal and restitution by her.

They were eloquent in their denunciation of the wickedness of Israel and the silliness of those "imperialistic circles" which aided and abetted her. They all brought Vietnam into their indictment of the United States.

On this score Rumania was somewhat different. Mr. Maurer said that the situation in Vietnam was a telling example of the danger to world peace that resulted from the violation of international legality through armed intervention and aggression.

Rumania firmly upheld the right of the Vietnam people to decide their destiny freely. But he did not go on to denounce the United States by name as an enemy of world peace, as the other east Europeans did.

Expulsions charge

MUHAMMAD AWAD AL KONY (United Arab Republic) spoke at the outset of today's debate. In a short statement he accused Israel of forcibly expelling a large number of Palestinians from the areas she had seized from Egypt.

He said that Israel intended to expel several more thousands "at the rate of 1,000 a day", and he urged the Assembly to take her to task and compel her to take the refugees back and pay compensation to them.

Among those present in the Assembly hall for part of the proceedings was Mr. George Brown, the British Foreign Secretary. He also found time to meet Dr. Mahmoud Fawzi, one of the deputy Prime Ministers of the United Arab Republic, Mr. Sharifuddin Pirzada, the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Adam Malik, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, and Mr. Abba Eban, the Israel Foreign Minister, and others.

Unless there is a last-minute change of plan, he will leave for London early tomorrow.

African support

NEW YORK, June 23.—The Assembly convened again this afternoon to hear more speeches.

MR. JENOE FOCK, the Hungarian Prime Minister, gave strong support to the Soviet resolution calling for condemnation of Israel, withdrawal of Israel troops from Arab territory, and the payment of reparations.

MR. BEAVOGUI LANSANA, the Foreign Minister of Guinea, supported the Soviet draft resolution in the name of "Afro-Asian solidarity and militant friendship".

MR. JOSEF CYRANKIEWICZ, the Polish Prime Minister, also voiced support for the Soviet resolution and accused "imperialist powers" of "defending the interests of oil monopolies and undermining the Arab national movement.". He said that the brief war "occurred in an international situation poisoned by the protracted American aggression in Vietnam."

MR. ADAM MALIK, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, called for the immediate withdrawal of Israel from occupied territories, but did not specifically support the Soviet resolution.

Cuban attack

SEÑOR RICARDO ALARCON QUESADA (Cuba) denounced the United Nations and the Security Council for what he said was its encouragement of Israel. He said that the unconditional cease-fire agreement adopted unanimously in the Security Council early in the war was an "immoral body blow to the Arab people".

So far as the Cuban people were concerned, he added, "there can be no cease-fire while a single, solitary inch of Arab territory is in the hands of the invading troops. Better that the last citizen of a country die than to accept such an ignominious despoiling of a country's rights".

MR. GIDEON RAFAEL (Israel, speaking in reply to charges that the Israelis were driving Arabs from their homes in the territory now occupied by Israel, said that the Arab spokesmen were "piling distortion on distortion and falsehood on falsehood".

He contended that the Arabs "have devised a new technique to widen the front of their propaganda barrage".—*Associated Press.*

From THE TIMES of 1867

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 1867. Price 3d. [20 pages]

(Across the Atlantic by Raft ?)

On the 4th of June three men left New York to make a voyage to Europe on a "life-preserving raft", fitted with sails and recently invented there. The object of this foolhardy voyage is to demonstrate the life-preserving qualities of the raft. It is made of three parallel air tubes of indiarubber, 25ft. long, 26in. in diameter, pointed at the ends, and covered with canvas. Some small water casks and a large box to hold supplies are fastened to these; and an ordinary A-shaped tent furnishes shelter. It seems almost impossible to prevent the sea from sweeping everything overboard. The raft is named the Nonpareil, and has actually gone to sea. The men on board carry 30 days' provisions with them, and expect to make the voyage to Europe in 20 days.

☞ Part of a message from an American Correspondent dated Philadelphia, June 7.

Rumania takes its own line.
From ERIC BRITTER, United Nations Correspondent

The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 24, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56976.

Category: News

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THE TIMES

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THE JOHNSON-KOSYGIN SUMMIT

It is good that PRESIDENT JOHNSON and MR. KOSYGIN were able to surmount obstacles of protocol and get together. It would have been absurd if they had not done so. But no one will have expected them to solve the world's problems as a result. Seldom, indeed, can the leaders of two super powers have met together with quite such an acute awareness of the limits of their power—not just in the Middle East but also in Vietnam, in Europe, in the field of non-proliferation and in almost any other direction they care to look. It must have been a salutary but also rather disturbing experience as they scanned the horizons of their supposed spheres of influence.

Nevertheless, it is encouraging that they could agree on the importance of nuclear non-proliferation. The Russians have so far seen the matter almost solely in relation to west Germany. If they now see that it also has importance in the Middle East so much the better. But the real significance of the relatively amicable remarks on this and other subjects is that the two powers, in spite of backing different sides in many parts of the world, and in spite of ridicule from China, are still able to acknowledge publicly their common responsibility for preserving peace.

The nightmare of any super power is to get committed to a situation or an ally it cannot control. The Russians escaped relatively lightly in the Middle East by knowing when to stand back and let their friends be defeated. The Americans are still living out their nightmare in Vietnam partly because they were not willing to do this when they had only advisers in the country. The problem both of them now face is whether to try to grasp control of the Middle East situation or whether to content themselves with mutual agreement to keep out. If they can do neither they will remain in trouble, yet neither is easy. They are too deeply engaged to withdraw and too weak politically to take control.

The Americans are in effect committed to preventing the complete destruction of Israel. Had the battle gone the other way they would have had to meet this commitment or pay a very heavy price. But they are not committed to expanding the frontiers of Israel. The Russians are committed to general support for the Arab countries but not to the destruction of Israel. To this extent the Americans are in an easier position, for the aims (if not the tactics) of their friend are defensive while those of Russia's friends are offensive. Of the two super powers, Russia therefore has the more difficult task and the greater responsibility for preventing another war.

Almost everything at the moment depends on whether Russia decides to rearm the Arab countries in the same way as before and with the same lack of control. In spite of her public posturings it is still very difficult to believe that she will actually be so stupid. It is more likely that she is trying to gain time while working out a way to regain her credit in the Arab countries without repeating the whole disastrous cycle again. For although she has a very clear interest in riding the tiger of Arab nationalism against western influence she also knows the dangers—particularly the dangers of a war that might bring in the United States to rescue Israel.

The stated positions of the two super powers are still far apart, but not hopelessly so. MR. KOSYGIN has demanded the branding of Israel as the aggressor, the withdrawal of Israeli troops behind their former frontiers, and reparations to be paid by Israel to Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. (Is this the first time that reparations have been demanded of a victor?) PRESIDENT JOHNSON has set out five principles to be observed in a settlement—the right of each nation to live and have this right respected by its neighbours; justice for the refugees; free passage through international waterways; limits on the arms race; and "respect for the political independence and territorial integrity of all the states in the area". He accepted the need for troops to be withdrawn but rejected a simple return to the *status quo ante*.

The American principles are the more flexible and realistic and they are not wholly irreconcilable with the Russian demands except possibly on the question of the total withdrawal of Israeli forces from their new positions. If the Russians insist on this they are likely to be faced with the choice between swallowing another defeat or backing up their demand with force. Neither alternative will attract them much.

At this point the discussion might usefully be widened. If one thing that can be hoped for from the super powers is some agreement on when intervention is permissible and when it is not, MR. KOSYGIN can legitimately suggest observing the same principles in Vietnam. So far he has been remarkably restrained considering his ally is being severely and continually bombed. Could the Americans stand by if Israel were being bombed in the same manner?

The fact of the matter is that the role of the super powers is no longer to work out solutions to the world's conflicts. It is much more to agree on their own rules of conduct in relation to these conflicts. In future these rules will have to include a good measure of restraint and non-involvement. As PRESIDENT JOHNSON said on Monday: "Clearly the parties to the conflict must be the parties to the peace. Sooner or later it is they who must make a settlement in the area."

The Johnson-Kosygin Summit.
The Times (London, England),Saturday, Jun 24, 1967; pg. 11; Issue 56976.

Category: Editorials/Leaders

Gale Document Number:CS184773848

'Airlift of arms' for Egypt

Soviet military talks

From NICHOLAS HERBERT, Beirut, June 26

Movements of Soviet arms to Egypt were reported today after Cairo international airport had been closed to commercial traffic at one hour's notice. The United Arab Republic gave no explanation for this sudden move, but Yugoslav reports attributed it to an influx of Russian armaments.

The Yugoslavs should know. President Podgorny of the Soviet Union stopped in Belgrade on his way to and from his talks with President Nasser, and it has been reported that President Tito agreed to facilitate the movement of arms for Egypt.

According to *Borba*, the Yugoslav newspaper, a Soviet-Egyptian military pact was concluded during President Podgorny's visit, and other reports have suggested that Russian military experts were being pressed on President Nasser.

He has rejected them in the past but, after what a Soviet newspaper has called the negligence of the Egyptian Air Force command during the war, it may be more difficult for him to do so in future.

Certainly if the aircraft he gets are no more sophisticated than the 200 MiG-17 fighter aircraft which are reported to have arrived already the Egyptian Air Gorce will not be what it was in terms of equipment.

Czechoslovak mission

According to the Cairo correspondent of *Tanjug*, the Yugoslav news agency, full agreement was reached during President Podgorny's visit on the volume and conditions of Soviet military assistance. However, with Israel forces still on Egyptian soil, no details of these could be made public. Hence, no doubt, the reticence of the usually informative Egyptian newspaper *Al Ahram*, which has contented itself with saying that close contact is being maintained between Cairo and Moscow.

Marshal Zakharov, the Chief of Staff of the Soviet armed forces, has remained behind to complete some details of the Podgorny-Nasser talks, and a high-level delegation arrived today from Czechoslovakia, since 1955 a heavy supplier of arms to Egypt. Mr. Vladmir Kouchy, a secretary of the Czechoslovak party central committee and a special envoy of President Novotny of Czechoslovakia, is leading this mission, which is expected to last three days.

Such are the scraps of information upon which a westerner has inevitably to go, and there is equally uncertain knowledge of what is happening within the Egyptian armed forces. One newspaper here has reported the dismissal of 650 Egyptian Army officers, including some of the rank of major-general, and has said that some of them will be court-martialled.

Officers executed

In Syria today two former officers were executed by firing squad after being found guilty of high treason. They were Major Selim Hatoum and Major Badr Jumaa, who were alleged to have had British, American and west German backing for an attempt to overthrow the present Syrian regime.

Damascus radio, which reported their deaths, said they had admitted this. Major Hatoum was named as the leader of the abortive *coup d'état* last September but he escaped to Jordan. He returned to Damascus during the recent war, but was accused of plotting a second *coup*.

According to *Al Ahram* President Podgorny, or another Soviet leader, will visit Damascus soon to balance the visit to Cairo, but today Dr. Yusuf Zeayen, the Syrian Prime Minister, was concentrating on inter-Arab relations. He left for Baghdad at the head of a delegation which is expected to discuss the coordination of steps towards Arab unity.

Syria and Iraq are not by nature the best of friends and what form the discussions will take is not clear, but Iraq has accepted the idea of an Arab summit conference while Syria appears less enthusiastic. Mr. Muhammad al Zubi, the Syrian Minister of Information, who accompanied Dr. Zeayen, when asked recently about a summit said that Syria supported unity of action, but Arabs ought to learn from the past. Any future meeting must have a clear goal.

Mr. Zubi, while praising Soviet support for the Arab cause, also included a grateful reference to China, but in general the Chinese vitriol directed at the Glassboro summit meeting has been played down in the Arab press. Mr. Kosygin's continued insistence that Israel withdraw within its earlier frontiers is widely welcomed, perhaps with just a slight sense of relief by Arabs who were uncomfortably aware of the pressures that must be bearing down on the Soviet Prime Minister.

CAIRO, June 26.—The Government reopened Cairo airport this afternoon, after nine hours, and again authorized foreign aircraft to fly over Egyptian territory.—*Agence France Presse.*

'Airlift of arms' for Egypt.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 27, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56978.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67333339

Shortened report blamed for confusion

MR. HEATH (Bexley, C.).—Does the Foreign Secretary realize that the reason for the mixed reception of his speech here was that his reference to "no aggrandisement" was followed immediately by his reference to Jerusalem. He appeared to be doing exactly what he said he did not wish to do: *forecast what the new arrangements would be*, and suggests that it would be the status quo from which these troubles originally sprang. (Opposition cheers.)

Is it his view that the final frontiers remain to be settled as part of the total package of arrangements?

On the denial of the participation of British troops in the crisis, the Foreign Secretary said in his speech that he had placed the ships' log books in the Library of this House and that they were available to anyone who wants to see them. This is not the case but, even so, is this strong enough to prove to the rest of the world that there was no participation?

The House is anxious to learn exactly what the position is about the canal being closed. What is the reason for it? How did it happen? Where is it closed? Is there any reason why the four British ships should not be allowed to go out to the south?

What is the position about British refugees from Middle East countries coming home? What is the Government doing to look after them?

Too hurried assumption

MR. BROWN.—On the first point, about what I said and how he got it wrong. . . . (Opposition cries of protest.) Yes, if the Leader of the Opposition had waited to read my speech—and, in particular, paragraphs 19 to 22—he would have seen that one followed immediately after the other. (Ministerial cheers.)

The real point of the misunderstanding as far as he was concerned was that, not for the first time, he took a shortened, and therefore, inevitably distorted, passage from a newspaper and fastened on that to say that I had somehow misled people. (Renewed Opposition cries of dissent.)

In paragraph 19 I started with Jerusalem and in paragraph 22 I followed with the question of the rights of states to live. I do not accept from Mr. Heath that I was in any way responsible for any misunderstanding there was in this House the other day.

We are in too much of a hurry here to take a newspaper's shortened report and assume that is exactly what was said.

I made it clear in my speech in New York and in my statement today that states have a right to live in true dignity and freedom and be able to earn their living in peace. That is why I said in New York—and believe—that there will have to be a balance against some other demands which will be made.

On the question of the log books I believed, when I was in New York, that they had already been placed in the Library of this House. I now learn that it took rather longer to collect them from the ships. They are now here, and they will be in the Library in a day or so. I apologize for the delay. Maybe I assumed too much. I thought it would be a rather simple matter to collect them. (Opposition interruptions.)

No gunboat

It is no use giving the impression that there is anything here other than the ordinary business of collecting from the ships which are dispersed about the seas.

The Suez Canal is blocked in two areas—between Ismailia and Port Said and at the southern end. It is reasonable to assume that it was blocked by ships or other obstacles placed there by the Egyptians. It is a matter of great urgency to persuade Egypt or use some other means to get it open. (An Opposition cry of: "What other means?")

I have not the slightest intention of sending a gunboat up to do it. (Ministerial cheers.) May I suggest to the Opposition that we should treat this with a bit of sense. We want to end this crisis with a lasting settlement. (Ministerial cheers.) This is a matter for acting in concert with our friends.

There are 13 ships in the area; we have four of them. I am in touch with all the other countries. We all believe at this moment, given that Egypt is losing by keeping the canal shut, and given that we have our passengers and most of our crews off, that it would be wrong to go crowding in at this moment on this issue.

We have most of the British subjects home. The bulk of those staying behind are in Israel. We are looking after them as they come home. We have reserved all our rights for compensation for property and other kinds of disturbance.

'Drop that one'

MR. HEATH.—The Foreign Secretary must not think that absence in New York is sufficient grounds for ignorance of what the press of this country, and the rest of the world, or members of this House, have been saying. (Opposition cheers.) What I said was that his speech had been widely interpreted, and when you read it in full it is still open to that interpretation. (Renewed Opposition cheers.)

What evidence was there that Israel was intending formally to annex the old city of Jerusalem? No evidence was produced.

As far as denying the lie about British participation, my point is that the House of Commons Library is not open to the rest of the world to examine the log books of British ships. If he wants to deny that, he must take more active steps.

MR. BROWN.—In the last five days the only person I have met who casts any doubts on the lie being a lie is Mr. Heath. (Ministerial cheers.) If he wants to mix it we will mix it.

There was nobody in New York who believed this any longer, or cast doubt upon our denials any longer, and the Egyptian representative did not even include it in his speech. If I were Mr. Heath I would drop that one as fast as I could. (Ministerial cheers.)

As for the press, five or six days' absence from this country will never make me ignorant of the misrepresentation that can appear in the press nor will it ever dupe me to the extent to which Mr. Heath will make up for his own deficiencies by seizing on them and trying to use them. (Ministerial cheers.)

As Mr. Heath once served in the Foreign Office he well knows there are things one cannot say in public. There is a distinguished team who serve in our posts abroad, most of them known to him, and a distinguished team of advisers, on whom he relied, and I had every reason to take the moment for saying what I said.

MR. HEATH.—As I was the first to stand up in this House and support the Prime Minister's statement that British troops did not take part in the operations in the Middle East, I challenge the Foreign Secretary to produce any evidence that I have ever believed that lie, and I call on him to withdraw. It is much too soon for him to behave like the Prime Minister. (Opposition cheers.)

MR. BROWN.—The remarks Mr. Heath made seemed to me to do less than justice to the position of our country. That is why I said what I said.

MR. THORPE (North Devon, L.).—Does the Foreign Secretary not think it is unfortunate that he has to come to this House and explain what he really meant by his speech, whether in this Chamber or the United Nations? Having read the speech in full, would he not agree it is unbalanced to refer to withdrawals in the context of Article 2 without any reference to the threat to the integrity of Israel?

It would be unethical if our present stand indicated that we were trying to revive friendship with the Arab countries at the price of selling Israel down the river.

MR. BROWN.—"The unbalanced nature" of the speech has now got a good deal of currency, but nobody who heard it thought it unbalanced—neither British correspondents who were there, nor my colleagues, no other countries, nor any commentator.

Of course there is a problem to face. Everyone who has held this position, in whatever Government, has had to face it. The moment one balances consideration for the case of the Arabs with that of the Israelis one is under enormous pressure of being unbalanced for that very reason. I am not the first Foreign Secretary who has suffered from this difficulty.

The question of appeasing the Arabs at the expense of Israel is not a charge that could ever be levelled at me with any justice.

For very highly personal reasons I have every reason for caring about the integrity and right to live of Israel, and there is not the slightest chance of my forgetting it, but Britain has important, vital interests in that part of the world and a British Foreign Secretary has to consider that as well as other things. That was what I was trying to do.

Condemning

MR. WILLIAM HAMILTON (West Fife, Lab.) asked if there had been any response by the Israeli Government to the suggestion that Jerusalem should be regarded as more or less an international free city?

MR. BROWN.—There are many arguments, I have no doubt, going on in Israel, and there are views there about how their interests would be safeguarded. I would rather not comment on them. I have had no comment from the Israeli Government about the future. This must be part of the final settlement.

We are acting in concert—what should be done, when it should be done and how it should be done.

It would be a mistake for a number of reasons, he added, to move in the direction of an injunction in the International Court.

MR. SHINWELL (Easington, Lab.).—The Foreign Secretary's desire to ensure a lasting and peaceful settlement in the Middle East is shared by every member. (Cheers.) There is no dispute about that.

But does he appreciate that his warning to Israel on the subject of territorial aggrandisement created the impression that he was condemning Israel, that he was prejudging the intentions of Israel before seeking to ascertain the facts. (Cheers.)

In view of the conversations he had with Mr. Kosygin, President Johnson and others, did he seek conversations with the Israeli Foreign Minister before he made his speech at the United Nations in order to ascertain what the intentions of the Israeli Government were?

The Foreign Secretary speaks about what might have happened if the Arabs had gained the victory. Does he recall the threat by the Arab states and President Nasser of annihilation of Israel. (Cheers.) How then does the question of territorial aggrandisement emerge?

MR. BROWN.—I did not have discussions with Mr. Eban before I made my speech. (Cries of "Why not?") Many delegates, Foreign Ministers and Prime Ministers wanted to see me before I made my speech. I decided that if I saw any of them before I spoke there was the gravest risk of it being alleged that what I said was being due to the influence of somebody or other.

MR. SYDNEY SILVERMAN (Nelson and Colne, Lab.). — Why warn one of them?

MR. BROWN.—Because I had good reason to worry about what was going to happen, and I wanted to do what I could to ensure it did not happen.

As to the point about the Arabs and previous threats, I have taken exactly the same stand with them as I have taken with the Israelis. Our business is to maintain the long standing traditional and very profitable friendship with the Arabs and with the Israelis. I will try to hold it this way.

I ask Mr. Shinwell not to ignore the value to us of our friendship with the Arabs and not to ignore the contribution we need to make in that area. Any idea that I would engage in double-talk he can write off straight away.

I spoke to them equally frankly in New York, privately as I have in public, in exactly the same terms and they all know the basis on which I think a settlement ought to be made.

Neutrality dilemma

MRS. McKAY (Clapham, Lab.).—Will the Foreign Secretary say, profit motive apart, that the Government appreciates that the Arab nations have long-standing grievances which should be understood, examined and rectified? (Ministerial cheers.)

MR. BROWN.—I recognize, as I said the other day, that the Arab nations, like Israel, have a case which should be heard, listened to and dealt with. That I firmly accept.

But let me make it plain that there is no doubt in my mind or that of the Government that Israel has lived under provocations and difficulties which have equally to be taken care of (Renewed cheers.)

There is nothing more uncomfortable than trying to maintain a genuinely neutral role. We have to see that both cases are heard and dealt with fairly. I do not want to be misunderstood as necessarily saying that that means that one case is less strong than the other.

MR. BELLENGER (Bassetlaw, Lab.).—With reference to what the Foreign Secretary said about a final settlement, who will make it? Will it be the United Nations or the belligerents who will settle it?

MR. BROWN.—This is again one of the issues to be worked out. I feel pretty sure, but I am not laying it down as a firm commitment, that it will be better for us all if this is done under United Nations aegis, however the original discussions emerge. I have a feeling that it will have to be United Nations operation right the way through.

The permanent members of the Security Council, in my view, have a considerable role to play and a great responsibility here. This I said firmly to Mr. Kosygin; this we discussed with our American friends and I discussed with M. Couve de Murville.

It may be that in the end it will be the permanent members of the council who will be able to edge this thing through. However it is done, at the end of the day it must be registered at the United Nations and somehow operated and policed by them.

Shortened report blamed for confusion.
The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 27, 1967; pg. 5; Issue 56978.

Category: Politics and Parliament

Gale Document Number:CS84503771

Proposal for UN guard post in Red Sea



By Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds

The world is strewn with narrow waterways where periodic attempts to halt the free movement of international shipping have engendered crisis and war. Today, the straits of wrath are to be found in the Middle East, and on Wednesday the House of Commons will be considering one of that area's shipping bottlenecks—the straits of Bab el Mandeb, separating Africa from Asia at the southern entrance to the Red Sea.

In Arabic Bab el Mandeb means literally "Gates of Mourning", so called from the dangers attending navigation through its two narrow channels. One of these, on the Asian side, is barely two miles wide, comparatively shallow and with a surface current sweeping northwards. The other channel, on the African side, is one of the world's great maritime highways, 16 miles across, 170 fathoms deep, and used daily by scores of vessels.

Separating—and commanding—both gates of Bab el Mandeb is a small volcanic island not much larger than Gibraltar. Its name is Perim and, potentially, it could prove to be one of the world's most strategic positions. For the past 100 years, Perim has been British. But under the Aden Independence Bill, which Parliament must pass this week, Perim is due to be handed over to someone else—though the British Government have not finally decided to whom. The obvious—and most likely—candidate is the new South Arabian Federation, from which Britain administers Perim and to which Mr. George Brown recently gave a pledge of military support after independence. But the views of Perim's 300 or so inhabitants must be ascertained first.

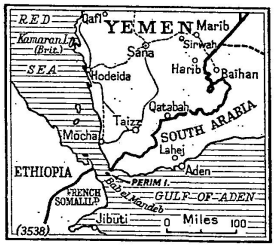
CASH UNDER THE BED

It was the East India Company which first landed British troops in Perim in November, 1798. Worried by Bonaparte's invasion of Egypt, the company thought that by occupying Perim they could stop up the Red Sea against a French thrust towards India. Lack of water forced a withdrawal but in 1857 the Admiralty took over from them. Perim was formally annexed not as legend has it, to prevent a French landing but on a clearsighted assessment of Perim's strategic value in the event that current plans for a Suez Canal were realized, as they came to be some years later.

The Royal Navy soon turned Perim into a bunkering station. During the great days of coal it enjoyed a modest boom. Lieutenant Lawrence, an early British administrator, was murdered when a mutinous detachment of the locally raised Yemeni Light Infantry tried to get at the Government's petty cash, kept in a tin box under his bed. But on the whole Perim was one of those classically calm outposts of late Victorian imperialism, complete with gleaming white Residency, Eastern Telegraph Company, croquet lawns, and Indian sepoys.

At the height of the coal-bunkering boom Perim had a population of some 2,500 Arabs and 200 Europeans. But as oil replaced coal, the island fell into decay. Depredations of local Yemeni contractors have left its once stately buildings roofless and window-less. Looking out from the portholes of the innumerable ships that pass within hailing distance, the modern voyager sees only a shrub-covered landscape with dilapidated buildings gathered about the harbour, and a volcanic hill, 241ft. high, to the north.

At one time the B.B.C. maintained on Perim one of its most powerful Arab language transmitting stations, transferred there from Somaliland. But this was burnt to the ground after a mysterious explosion. No announcement was made at the time, even though investigation revealed that the cause was not sabotage but accident; yet ever since, the voice of Britain in this part of the Arab world has been dependent on a temporary 10 kilowatt station in Aden, plus longer range broadcasts from Malta. There are no plans to replace the B.B.C. station on Perim. Instead



a 1500 kilowatt station is being built for the island of Masirah, where British V-bombers will be stationed, at the eastern end of the Arabian peninsula.

Yet if Perim today is no more than a ghost of its former self, its strategic position is such that the island could be quickly transformed either into a dagger pointing at the throat of the southern Red Sea or, more valuably, into an international sentry box, standing guard over Bab el Mandeb. It has three indispensable assets for good or for ill—a small but useful harbour which controls two vital lighthouses, an air strip that could be extended to take most military aircraft, and a position from which heavy guns could sweep the main shipping channel.

It is clearly open to question how these assets will be used once Britain lets go of Perim. There can be no guarantee that the island will not fall into hostile or unstable hands, willing perhaps to abuse its strategic situation to interfere with freedom of passage. At present, the South Arabian Federation, to which the Foreign Office would prefer to hand over Perim, is heavily dependent on Britain. Its present rulers are as unlikely as, at the moment, they are unable, to turn Perim into a gun emplacement whose fire could command the Straits. But who can foretell the future, especially in the Middle East? Once Britain finally withdraws from its defence commitments to Aden, it is at least open to question whether some future government of the Federation, dependent perhaps on Egypt, or on the Soviet Union, will not seek to use Perim to stop Israeli, if not other, ships.

All recent experience suggests that these are not idle anxieties. Britain might therefore be wise to propose that Perim, with the consent of its inhabitants, should henceforth be administered by no single nation but by an international body, pledged to maintain free passage for ships (and planes) of all nations. A motion allowing the Government to put forward such a solution is to be made in Parliament tomorrow. It suggests that "For the purpose of rendering peace more secure in the general area of the Arabian peninsula and the adjoining gulfs and seas. . . her Majesty on the advice of the Foreign Secretary may lease Perim to the United Nations or any of its agencies willing and able to establish there a peacekeeping mission".

The chief concern is that Perim could—and should—provide a physical home-on-the-ground for an international peacekeeping force. Some such force, preferably U.N. sponsored, sooner or later will have to be established in the Middle East if there is to be peace. To be effective it must have one or more "sovereign base areas". Only from such areas, which they control themselves, can U.N. observers operate by right, immune from the domestic pressures of host countries, and free of the danger of being ordered out, as U.N.E.F. was from Sinai.

Perim could be the first of the U.N.'s peacekeeping territories. True, it is remote from the Arab-Israel cockpit; but with a squadron of helicopters plus the means of quick reinforcements even a small detachment of U.N. observers in Perim could keep an eye on what soon may become another major trouble spot—south Arabia and the Horn of Africa. A U.N. presence in Perim would also go far towards ensuring freedom of navigation through Bab el Mandeb.

Legally there is no doubt that Britain is entitled to place Perim under the U.N. It has never been an integral part of Aden colony, nor of Yemen or French Somaliland. Nor is it likely that the present Arabian Federation would object to a U.N. presence.

STEP TOWARDS PEACE?

Whether the U.N. will prove willing, or able, to accept trusteeship status for Perim is a matter for speculation. The best way of finding out is to put it to the test. But the charter not only permits but virtually invites member nations to place strategic territories under U.N. trusteeship. Article 77 calls on this to be done "by the voluntary decision of the states responsible for their administration". Article 81 permits either the U.N. organization itself, or one or more member states, to administer such "trusteeship territories" under the Security Council.

The ideal arrangement might be for Perim to be administered by a consortium of powers, including a representative of both the Arab states and the international maritime community. No one can imagine that this would be easy to arrange. Even if, as many judge likely, the U.N. hesitates to accept it, Britain (by agreement with the Arabian Federation) could continue to administer the island on behalf of the international community. No additional garrison would be needed.

To establish a U.N. guard post at the southern end of the Red Sea would be good for Perim and good for Britain, good for Israel and good for the Arabs. Most of all it could mark a new beginning towards the creation of a meaningful peacekeeping force pledged, under the U.N., to uphold freedom of passage in one of the world's vital waterways. Would not this, in itself, be a step towards peace?

Proposal for UN guard post in Red Sea.
By Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds

The Times (London, England),Tuesday, Jun 27, 1967; pg. 9; Issue 56978.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS152267995

ARAB SUMMIT EFFORTS

From NICHOLAS HERBERT—Beirut, June 27

The Yemen dispute, which fundamentally split the Arab world before the latest crisis with Israel, seemed today to be interfering with attempts to organize an Arab summit conference. Sudan was reported to have agreed at the request of Morocco and Algeria to postpone the heads of government meeting it was trying to arrange in Khartum before the end of this month.

According to the Khartum newspaper *Al Ayam*, Saudi Arabia's uncompromising stand on Yemen was proof that postponement would be in the Arab interest. In the meantime foreign ministers would be left with the task of coordinating Arab policy while Sudan tried to change King Faisal's mind.

If the report is true, it would indicate that Tunisia has joined the long list of those who have unsuccessfully tried to bridge the ideological rift between Cairo and Riyadh. It is significant that the request for delay came from Tunisia's North African neighbours, one of them right wing and the other left. Sudan will have its work cut out to organize its summit.

Built on sand

While the intentions of neither Egypt nor Saudi Arabia are clear, the new development indicates that the Arab unity of the past six weeks is probably built on sand. Egypt is reported to have withdrawn up to 15,000 of its 60,000 troops from Yemen since the end of the war, but there has been no sign from Cairo of a big change of policy. Saudi Arabia has been sitting tight, presumably waiting to see what develops in Egypt, which it has long thought to be overstrained financially by the Yemen war.

If this was true before the war—and it may not have been—it should be much more true now with the Suez Canal closed, the cotton crop in danger from worm and the tourist trade off. In spite of the apparent resumption of Soviet military aid, therefore, Riyadh is presumably not unhopeful and will accordingly be disinclined to show any flexibility.

In Jordan various categories of officials whose movements were restricted during the war were told today that they could go on leave. The officials, who included doctors, nurses, chemists, engineers, civil servants, and employees of the public security, public works and electricity departments, were told that they could go abroad provided that they got permission from their chiefs.

The military governor of Amman issued a statement explaining why everyone was required to carry passports or other identifying documents. The area was crowded with people, he said, some of whom might be persons accused of crimes on the west bank or prisoners who had escaped after the war.

MPs fly out for Israel study

A group of seven Labour M.P.s flew out to Israel from Heathrow airport, London, yesterday, to study the situation there.

They are Mr. Eric Heffer (Walton, Liverpool); Mr. Maurice Orbach (Stockport); Mr. Paul Rose (Blakeley, Manchester); Mr. David Marquand (Ashfield); Mr. Hugh Grey (Yarmouth); Mr. Ted Rowlands (Cardiff); and Mr. Ben Whittaker (Hampstead).

Before the group left Heathrow, Mr. Heffer said: "We are going mainly to study the position, meet political leaders and have a look at the prisoner-of-war camps and the problem of the Arab refugees. If we find anything of importance which will be helpful towards a settlement we shall be getting in touch with the Foreign Office.

The group were invited to Israel by the Labour Friends of Israel organization.

Arab Summit Efforts.
From NICHOLAS HERBERT

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 28, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56979.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67595484

Canal Zone closures order

From STEWART HARRIS—Cairo, June 27

All diplomatic missions and United Nations agencies have been asked to close consulates, honorary consulates and offices in the Canal zone from today. The foreign Ministry said they may be reopened once all traces of aggression have been removed.

The precise meaning of this is not clear, but the order does not affect the United Kingdom, whose vice-consul left Port Said about three weeks ago.

Another order revealed today in the authoritative newspaper *Al Ahram* applies to 15 foreign ships stranded in the canal. They have been asked not to use radio for transmitting or receiving. In Cairo, police have pointed out that motor vehicle headlights should still be masked with blue paint. People who had scraped off the paint since the ceasefire were warned to do some repainting.

There may be some relation between all these orders, but their significance is not being made clear officially.

Cairo is certainly at peace, and Egyptian people of all sorts are kind and thoughtful. I have walked with confidence in the narrow streets of old city. But equally there is quite a strong feeling among some people that Egypt may have to fight again if the Israelis do not withdraw. I do not know the official view about this, but obviously the mood is not being discouraged. It is understandable, if for the moment unrealistic.

Russian and French oil delegations are expected in Cairo soon. Engineers and technicians from Moscow will begin to implement a prospecting agreement signed some months ago relating to the western desert and the Red Sea. According to *Al Akhbar* they will discuss provision of equipment worth £E20m.

The same newspaper also reports the imminent arrival of experts representing French firms. They are expected to explore the possibility of exploiting natural gas from Shokeir field on the Red Sea and are said to be interested in prospecting in the western desert.

King Husain to see President

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT
WASHINGTON, JUNE 27

The White House announced today that King Husain of Jordan is to call on President Johnson for an exchange of views tomorrow afternoon. He will be the first Arab leader to come to Washington since the beginning of the Middle East crisis.

Canal Zone closures order.
From STEWART HARRIS

The Times (London, England),Wednesday, Jun 28, 1967; pg. 4; Issue 56979.

Category: News

Gale Document Number:CS67726556

Israelis cut rate on Jordan dinars

BY NICOLAS TRAVERS

Israel annexed the Old City of Jerusalem yesterday, and introduced the Israel pound as legal tender in the newly united city. At the same time they raised the possibility of gaining some useful benefits from the war by confirming the Jordanian dinar as legal tender for the rest of occupied Jordan, but at a rate of exchange that effectively devalues it by 40 per cent.

This means that Israelis may—and, judging from the interest at the banks, some already do—buy dinars, which are officially at par with sterling, at a 40 per cent discount. This will show a useful profit if the dinars can be sold back through the open markets in Beirut or elsewhere.

Although Egypt is still banning all British, west German and American ships from her ports, goods transhipped to vessels flying the flags of friendly nations will be accepted.

This move represents an easing in the official Egyptian attitude from a position of total blockade. But the situation could be complicated if Egyptian dockers follow the lead of their fellows in Libyan and Lebanese ports.

Currently the situation at Middle East ports is very confused. Syria, Lattakia, and Iraq, Basra, are still banning imports from the three western powers.

Libya and Lebanon are officially easing, and the Lebanese Government has announced that Beirut will work British cargoes. But Beirut dockworkers are refusing to handle British, west German or American cargoes.

The situation in Libya is the same. Dockworkers at Tobruk and Benghazi are refusing to handle British cargoes; at Tripoli the situation is said to be extremely confused.

However, at least two Middle East countries—Lebanon and Jordan—would like to resume normal trade relations with the West. Lebanon, which depends heavily on tourism and banking, badly wants to restore foreign confidence. Jordan is still hampered by her newly created refugee problem, but both appear to be neutral rather than anti-Western.

Syria, Iraq, and Egypt are still taking a harder line, and trade circles point out that Egypt's low foreign reserves and the absence of export cover will make anything but opportunistic trade virtually impossible for some time to come, even with a softening on the political front.

Israelis cut rate on Jordan dinars.
BY NICOLAS TRAVERS

The Times (London, England),Thursday, Jun 29, 1967; pg. 24; Issue 56980.

Category: Business and Finance

Gale Document Number:CS403270877

'POLITICAL REASONS FOR FAILURE'

SOVIET PRESSURE ON ARMY

From KYRIL TIDMARSH, Moscow, June 29

Egyptian military failures are blamed here tonight on officers and officials who were "not one hundred per cent socialist" and whose "innermost thoughts never accepted the revolution".

A leading article in the weekly journal *Abroad* says that, now Egypt is more dependent than ever on Soviet diplomatic, military and economic support, the Soviet Union would like to see the replacement of "bourgeois nationalists" by socialists—which in Russian parlance means communists.

Abroad said that the United Arab Republic forces had first class, up-to-date weapons which could have been used effectively. This did not happen because some senior officers who never accepted the revolution were not prepared to discharge their patriotic duty. They opposed the Government's policy aimed at social changes, and discouraged political activity among the rank and file. Many officers used their service privileges for feathering their nests and there was a type of officer "who seemed to spend more time in commerce than on military training." This could mean the Russians may insist on changes in the Egyptian Army before more large-scale military help is given.

The search for scapegoats is natural, but the authors of the article suggest that pressure exists to make the Egyptian military fiasco the justification for some basic political changes. They write that many people are urging a "reconstruction of the machinery of government to become Arab socialist". They call for the "break up of the old machinery of government", and a purge of non-communist elements is advocated plainly. "Far from all senior officials are 100 per cent socialist. How will they be able to pursue their course?"

The authors add that there were "no answers to this question". But doubtless President Podgorny of the Soviet Union has some suggestions for President Nasser on this, as well as the compromise resolution on the Middle East submitted to the General Assembly by Yugoslavia.

Cuba apprehension

Tonight this resolution was given a favourable press reaction here, suggesting that the Soviet Union will claim the credit for securing a call for an Israel withdrawal, and then start talks in the Security Council in which Israel's access to the port of Eilat will be a negotiable point.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kosygin has finished his second long meeting with Fidel Castro during his visit to Cuba. Apparently his trip was decided on while he was in the United States. Observers here feel that the main purpose was to restrain the Cubans from too forward a policy of support for guerrilla movements in Latin America which could provoke a counter strike against the island. Russia demonstrated very clearly during the Middle East crisis that she could not countenance another full-scale confrontation with the United States.

At the beginning of May someone here chose to inform the Egyptians that the Israelis were planning to attack Syria. If a threat to the peace was suspected the warning should have been directed to the United Nations. Instead it was addressed to the Arabs, who could only be expected to start moving troops and making preparations for war—actions which in fact led to Israel's pre-emptive strike. The "Russian friends" who according to President Nasser tipped off the Egyptian parliamentary delegation here a month before the beginning of the war may not have realized the consequences of alarming the Arabs. On the other hand, the usefulness of a "second front" in the Middle East, to divert American attention from Vietnam, may have appealed to them.

The "forward" communist policy in the Middle East ended in failure and a risk of a larger conflict; and it has now become doubly more important for Russia to restrain action by any of its allies which once again could put the Soviet Union into a position when it could only intervene or else face the charge of capitulating in the face of imperialism.

The mere fact that a Soviet-American summit took place is an event of capital importance inside the communist world.

Soviet Pressure On Army.
From KYRIL TIDMARSH

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